

## Sudan premier pledges democracy

LONDON (R) — Sudanese Prime Minister Al Gazouli Dafaallah said Friday his country would return to full democracy after general elections due in April. Mr. Dafaallah, on a two-day visit to Britain, said the interim government and transitional military council set up after the overthrow of President Jaafar Numeiri last April had taken several steps to ensure a swift return to democratic rule. These included a commitment to a multi-party system, the appointment of an independent election committee and the adoption of draft election laws, he told a news conference. He said an improved crop this year had ensured there would be no repeat of last year's widespread famine in Sudan, which he blamed on a failure by Mr. Numeiri's government to act in time.

Egyptian-Sudanese summit planned, page 2

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الراي

Tenth anniversary special

## Peres calls for French peace efforts

PARIS (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said on Friday that France could play a vital role in helping overcome the obstacles towards a Middle East peace. Speaking at a news conference after talks with President Francois Mitterrand, Peres said Mr. Mitterrand had earned the trust of both Israel and the Arab World and "can help us overcome the problems that lie before us." France was seeking consultations with Arab states in order to update its Middle East policy in the light of Peres' proposals. Mr. Vauzelle said. Peres said there had been considerable progress from a stalemate several weeks ago where Israel rejected both Jordan's demands for PLO representation at peace talks and its insistence on an international peace conference under U.N. auspices. "Today there's a feeling we must look for substitution to the two problems," he said.

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## King to visit Paris in November

PARIS (R) — King Hussein will visit Paris next month for talks with President Francois Mitterrand on Middle East peace efforts, a French spokesman said Friday. Presidential spokesman Michel Vauzelle announced the trip during a press briefing.

## Iraq denies Iranian claim

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq on Friday denied a Tehran report that one of its warplanes was shot down by Iranian troops on the southern Gulf war front Thursday night. A communiqué from Iran's war headquarters said the plane was downed as it flew towards positions in the Hawr Al Hawzah marshes taken by Iran during a recent offensive in the area. A military spokesman, quoted by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), said the aircraft report was untrue and also described as "ridiculous" Iran's claim to have overrun Iraqi positions on the edge of the marshland.

## Gandhi in The Hague

THE HAGUE (AP) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on Friday met Dutch Queen Beatrix, who is to pay a state visit to India early next year, a Dutch royal house spokesman said. Mr. Gandhi, who is in the Netherlands for a 12-hour working visit, was received in a private audience at the Huis Ten Bosch palace on the outskirts of this diplomatic capital. Accompanied by his wife Sonia, the prime minister spoke with Queen Beatrix and her husband, Prince Claus, for about 45 minutes, according to the spokesman, who did not disclose the substance of the exchange.

## ANC leader says Reagan does not understand S. Africa

LONDON (AP) — A black nationalist leader said U.S. President Ronald Reagan does not understand South Africa and he called on Americans on Friday to force their government to adopt total sanctions against South Africa's apartheid government. "Sometimes he (Mr. Reagan) says apartheid has been ended and it's difficult to know what apartheid he's talking about," Oliver Tambo, president of the African National Congress, told a news conference in London. "A United States president must find it difficult to say apartheid South Africa is an ally," Mr. Tambo said. "Perhaps he didn't know what South Africa was all about."

## Argentina declares state of siege

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine President Raul Alfonsín declared a state of siege on Friday for a period of 60 days to curb growing violence in the run-up to congressional elections. Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli announced, Mr. Troccoli said in a radio broadcast the measure would not affect the Nov. 3 elections but was necessary to detain without trial those the government suspected of responsibility for a recent wave of bombings.

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# King: Peres plan has positive signs but contradicts itself

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

## AMMAN: His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak held talks Thursday on prospects for the Middle East peace process during a short official visit Mr. Mubarak made to Amman.

It was the first meeting between the two leaders since the peace process suffered a setback in the aftermath of the Oct. 1 Israeli raid on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters in Tunis and the Oct. 7 hijacking of the Italian liner Achille Lauro. The talks also followed a new proposal for talks on the Middle East by Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Earlier on Thursday, the King told a press conference, just before he received President Mubarak, that there were some positive signs in the Peres proposal, which the Israeli prime minister made in a speech at the U.N. on Monday.

However, the King ruled out direct talks with Israel as called for by Peres and reiterated that any solution to the Middle East conflict should be worked out through an international conference.

The King, noting that the Peres proposal includes references to an international conference and negotiations based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, pointed out that there were contradictions in the proposals.

The King said Peres referred both to a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement — the sort Jordan seeks — and to bilateral negotiations with Jordan.

King Hussein indicated those could take place, but only under the sponsorship of an international conference.

The King also rebuffed Peres' call for an immediate end to the state of war with Jordan.

"It's easy for him to say he is willing to end the state of war," the King said, "when he's in possession of the West Bank."

In an interview with the New York Times published Thursday

the King said that a termination of the state of war "is the crowning achievement of a peace effort under the right auspices, an international peace conference dealing with all aspects of the problem in particular the Palestinian dimension of the problem."

After his return to Cairo on Thursday, Mr. Mubarak told reporters he had discussed with the King the Israeli proposal and prospects for the peace process. He said Mr. Peres' proposals "had some good points and some unsatisfactory ones."

On Friday, however, Mr. Peres outlined conditions for Israel's acceptance for an international conference.

In a television interview with the French television upon arrival to Paris from New York Friday, the Israeli premier said that participation in the Middle East peace talks was possible only "if each party present agreed to the presence of each country or state attending."

The Israeli premier also said that Israel will accept Soviet participation in an international peace conference if it will "impose a solution or reject an agreement reached between the different sides."

Peres also implied that Israeli acceptance of Soviet participation could be linked to Moscow's position on emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

The King said he would meet soon with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to discuss recent setbacks to the peace process activated by the Feb. 11 Jordan-PLO accord and "to ascertain where we go from here."

He said the peace process had been hurt by the killing of three Israelis in Cyprus and the death of an American aboard a hijacked ship in the Mediterranean — acts Israel blames on the PLO — as well as by Israel's bombing of the PLO headquarters in Tunis.

The King said he hoped the PLO would continue to represent the Palestinian people but said that was a matter for the Palestinians themselves to decide.

In another development, the U.S. Senate voted 97-1 on Thursday to delay until March 1 President Ronald Reagan's proposed \$1.9-billion arms sale to Jordan.

Senate sources quoted by the AP said Mr. Reagan reluctantly went along with the Senate when the Republican leaders told him that the sale — which has met stiff opposition from the pro-Israel lobby and its backers in Congress — inevitably would be defeated.

## Ten years of the Jordan Times

Today the Jordan Times celebrates its tenth anniversary. To commemorate this happy occasion, we have produced a special issue of the newspaper, including a 12-page supplement. The issue includes an article by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, comments by senior government officials, diplomats, parliamentarians, businessmen and a large number of our general readers. Also included are articles on how the paper is

produced, how much work goes into presenting a readable eight-page daily, and all that this process entails. We cannot but remember that it was the readers' encouragement and advertisers' patronage that kept us going strong over the past decade, and we take this opportunity to extend to you our heartfelt appreciation for bearing with the newspaper throughout the 10 years of its existence.

## Arafat: PLO will stick to peace path

MANAMA (AP) — Yasser Arafat said on Friday that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will pursue the road to a peaceful settlement with Israel.

Addressing a news conference here, Mr. Arafat also complained that the PLO was passing through tight financial straits, with almost all Arab powers failing to honour their aid commitments to the organisation.

Mr. Arafat said that the PLO was not "wielding a gun solely, but we also have objectives to be scored through political channels."

"We continue to carry a gun in one hand and an olive branch in another," Mr. Arafat told reporters at the end of a 24-hour visit here, during which he held solidarity talks with the ruler of Bahrain, Sheikh Issa bin Salman Al Khalifa. "The gun alone would turn us into highwaymen. I am not a war mercenary. I am a fighter for freedom, and I have to nourish my people's hopes for peace and tranquility."

He told the press conference he would meet King Hussein shortly and PLO sources told Reuters the meeting was scheduled for Monday.

His forthcoming talks with King Hussein would be "to evaluate developments and reach a final assessment," he said.

Responding to a question, Mr. Arafat expressed hope that the PLO will be included in the ongoing reconciliation process between Syria and Jordan.

"I hope that the Syrian-Jordanian rapprochement would include the PLO," said Mr. Arafat.

## Crown Prince urges journalists to help bring understanding

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has emphasised the role of the media in improving international relations and called on journalists to launch a concerted and cooperative effort to bring understanding between peoples.

In an exclusive article he wrote for the Jordan Times to mark the newspaper's 10th anniversary, the Crown Prince said: "The potential for presenting an objective portrait of world events lies in the hands of the mass media. Today's journalist represents a real power for freedom and human dignity. What is required is a concerted and cooperative effort to use this opportunity to bring understanding between peoples."

The Crown Prince said: "For ten years now, the Jordan Times has carried out, rather literally, the dictum of Mr. Dooley that the mission of the modern newspaper is to 'comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.' This in itself is no mean feat and I believe our press has taken great steps in the



bridging the information gap, yet it still runs the risk of preaching only to the converted."

Depicting the negative image that the Western media portray of the region, the Crown Prince called for setting up a regional information system to exchange information and act as a counterforce to the established trend to negative reporting in the West.

The Crown Prince's article appears on page 4

## Moroccan politicians hail ceasefire offer in W. Sahara

RABAT (Agencies) — Moroccan politicians on Friday hailed King Hassan's offer of a ceasefire and a referendum in the Western Sahara and called on the U.N. to play its role in resolving the Saharan dispute.

Former Foreign Minister Mohammed Boucif said in a statement published by the L'Opinion and Al Alam dailies: "One could not be clearer, more to the point and more convincing in inviting the international body to face up to all its responsibilities."

"This (King Hassan's) speech marks an important and decisive move in the Sahara question," Morocco announced at the United Nations on Wednesday it would observe a unilateral ceasefire in its long-drawn war with Polisario guerrillas fighting for independence of the former Spanish colony.

It also promised a referendum in early January to determine whether the people of Western Sahara wished to be Moroccan.

His Majesty King Hussein sent a message to King Hassan on Thursday congratulating him and supporting his move.

"This is a noble initiative on your part, deserving all support and appreciation and positive response from all other parties," the King said in his cable.

## European Parliament calls for Palestinian homeland

STRASBOURG, France (R) — The European Parliament has called for a Palestinian homeland and condemned the United States for responding to "illegal sea piracy with illegal air piracy" in the aftermath of the Achille Lauro incident.

The parliament on Thursday also condemned in an emergency motion members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and other Palestinian groups for carrying out the seizure of the ship.

The main motion, tabled by the liberals, also welcomed the fact that the four hijackers were to be tried in Italy but regretted that a Palestinian leader who accompanied the hijackers on their flight from Egypt would not be in court.

The United States has accused the man, Mohammad Abbas (Abu Abbas), of being behind the seizure of the Italian cruise ship.

However, a critical amendment to the main motion from the environmentalist "Rainbow" group that called for recognition "of both the Israeli and the Palestinian peoples to a land of their own" was carried by 61 votes to 24.

The European parliament has consistently supported Palestinian rights but it was never before come out so clearly in favour of an independent Palestinian homeland.

## Shultz to hold pre-summit talks with Soviet leaders in Moscow

NEW YORK (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz, stressing "major differences" between the United States and the Soviet Union, said Friday he will fly to Moscow for talks on Nov. 4 and 5 in advance of President Ronald Reagan's summit meeting with Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

Mr. Shultz said he would meet with the Soviet leader as well as with Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze. "President Reagan felt that it was appropriate for me to go and I've accepted (the Soviet) invitation," Mr. Shultz said.

He virtually ruled out reaching an agreement to curb nuclear weapons before the Geneva summit meeting Nov. 19-20 whatever

Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev accomplish. Mr. Shultz said, there will still "be a great deal of work to do... by the arms negotiators in the future."

At the same time, he welcomed a proposal by Mr. Shevardnadze that the two superpowers aim for "an agreement of principles" at the summit.

The Moscow trip was announced after Mr. Shultz met over breakfast for more than two hours with Mr. Shevardnadze at the U.S. mission to the United Nations.

The Soviet official, in a statement to reporters, said: "Great hopes are pinned to that summit meeting by literally all peoples in the world."

He said while there were "certain positive moments" in his meetings

with Mr. Shultz, there also were differences, and yet, he said, both sides were dedicated to contributing to a successful outcome in Geneva.

Mr. Reagan alluded to one area of deep differences in a U.N. speech on Thursday in which he accused Moscow of interfering in the affairs of Third World nations.

Mr. Reagan indirectly accused Moscow of efforts to "impose an ideology from without" in Afghanistan, Kampuchea, Ethiopia, Angola, and Nicaragua.

Mr. Reagan called for a regional peace process in which warring parties in the five countries would open negotiations that could lead to U.S.-Soviet support and possible superpower guarantees.

## U.S. allies seem relieved after summit

NEW YORK (R) — President Reagan appears to have soothed allied worries about his approach to next month's U.S.-Soviet summit by promising to counter Moscow's arms control proposals with a new initiative of his own.

But during two rounds of talks in New York on Thursday with the leaders of Britain, West Germany, Italy, Canada and Japan Mr. Reagan gave no indication of what kind of offer he would make to Moscow and U.S. newspapers said the administration had not yet agreed on a negotiating position for the Geneva meeting.

Allied officials had voiced concern in the approach to their New York talks that Washington appeared to be trying to downgrade the issue of arms control and avoid responding to Soviet calls for a sharp reduction in nuclear armaments.

Their fears were amplified when Mr. Reagan barely mentioned nuclear arms control in a major U.N. address on Thursday in which he said aggressive Soviet behaviour in the world would be a fundamental issue at Geneva.

But the leaders of Britain, West Germany and Italy all told reporters after meeting Mr. Reagan later that the president had given them firm assurances he would present a new arms package of his own before he meets Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on Nov. 19 and 20.

Mr. Reagan also pledged to intensify consultations with the allies before and after the summit and senior West German sources said he would fly to Brussels after his

sharp reduction in nuclear armaments.

The West German sources said the allies' apprehensions had been based on a "misunderstanding" and Mr. Reagan had convinced them he was ready to get down to hard talking with Moscow on ways to reduce nuclear stockpiles.

The influential New York Times reported on Friday, however, that there were serious divisions within the administration over what approach to take on arms control and what to offer Mr. Gorbachev at Geneva.

The newspaper cited U.S. officials as saying the disarray was caused by the fact that Mr. Reagan himself had not yet decided on either his general policy line or the details of what he would negotiate.

talks with Mr. Gorbachev to brief NATO leaders.

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## U.N. ends celebrations with discord over Mideast

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United Nations 40th birthday commemoration ended on Thursday without a planned declaration of members' commitment to the organisation's charter, because of continuing discord on the Palestinian question.

Without dissent, the General Assembly designated 1986 as "The International Year of Peace."

In an address at the end of 11 days of commemorative meetings, Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said that next month's Geneva talks between President Reagan and Soviet party chief Mikhail Gorbachev "could turn the tide of history."

But the Middle East problem, which has been a major issue here almost since the inception of the organisation, prevented members from adopting a ringing renewal of purpose as the world body enters

its fifth decade.

Arab members insisted on a mention of the need for "self-determination of the Palestinian people and the principle of the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by force, which requires termination of the (Israeli) occupation."

Delegates said that the United States opposed this text and offered a milder expression of concern that the Palestinian issue remained unresolved.

The United States wished to refer to efforts "under appropriate auspices" to ensure a settlement "on the basis of the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations."

In the absence of the consensus needed for decisions relating to the U.N. anniversary, the 34-point draft declaration was scrapped.

## Gemayel returns home to face increasing opposition

BEIRUT (AP) — President Amin Gemayel returned from New York on Friday to find his power further eroded by an inter-Christian split over Syria's efforts to end Lebanon's 10-year-old civil war.

Shortly after his arrival, fighting broke out in Beirut's western sector between Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militiamen and pro-Syrian irregulars of the Arab Democratic Party, known as the "Pink Panthers" because of their raspberry-tinged fatigues.

Sources at the American University Hospital said at least three civilians were killed and 30 others wounded in the one-hour clash with machine guns and mortars in west Beirut's Hamra commercial district and the seaside in Mr. Gemayel's neighbourhood.

It was not immediately known what started the firefights, the first

in Beirut between the two factions that have been allies in the civil war.

Civilians ran for cover amid the gunfire and explosions in the streets.

Mr. Gemayel, 43, a Maronite Catholic, arrived the day after his Falange Party newspaper, Al Amal, was shut down by Elie Hobeika, commander of the "Lebanese Forces," the mostly Christian rightist main militia.

The closure reinforced evidence of a power struggle in the rightist camp.

The action by Mr. Hobeika, believed to have masterminded the 1982 massacre of hundreds of Palestinians and Lebanese in Beirut's Sabra and Shatila refugee camps, underlined that he has emerged as the rightists' most powerful leader.

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# SLA holds 4th attacker of S. Lebanon radio station

TEL AVIV (AP) — One of four commandos who carried out a bombing attack against an American-owned radio station in South Lebanon last week has been captured, Israeli military sources said Friday.

Three guerrillas, a Lebanese guard and a technician were killed in the raid on the Voice of Hope radio station. Israeli army spokesmen said at the time. A warehouse and a building housing the broadcast studios were destroyed by the explosion.

Authorities said at the time that four guerrillas were involved in the attack but the fate of the fourth had been unknown. The attack was originally described as a possible suicide mission because the guerrillas wore explosives strapped to their belts in such a manner that they would detonate if they were shot.

The liberal daily Haaretz said the fourth attacker told his Lebanese militia interrogators that the guerrilla team had planned to escape alive after planting the explosives. But he said the explosives detonated prematurely.

Haaretz identified the captured guerrilla as Nasser Khirbat, a 22-year-old member of the Communist Workers Party from the mostly Shi'ite Muslim town of Baalbek in east Lebanon. The Lebanese Communist Party cla-

imed responsibility in a communiqué issued in Beirut.

Israeli military sources who spoke on condition of anonymity confirmed the newspaper report that the fourth guerrilla was captured and held by the Israeli-backed "South Lebanon Army" militia. But they declined comment on the rest of the newspaper report.

Meanwhile in Tyre, Lebanon, militiamen of the "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) stormed a checkpoint manned by Norwegian peacekeeping troops in Israel's so-called security belt in South Lebanon and took away a U.N. vehicle, weapons and radio equipment, U.N. sources said Thursday.

The sources, who requested anonymity, said 20 gunmen attacked the checkpoint on the southern entrance to blat late Wednesday and held the soldiers manning it at gunpoint for 15 minutes. They fled, taking the vehicle arms and equipment with them, when U.N. reinforcements arrived. "The vehicle and some equipment were returned later, but

ipment and weapons," said one source in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

The incident occurred as the 150-man Dutch contingent serving with the 10-nation UNIFIL completed its evacuation from South Lebanon.

The bulk of the Dutch soldiers left for home via Israel Thursday after turning over their positions to Nepalese and Fijian peacekeeping troops, UNIFIL sources said.

The Dutch government said it was pulling out its troops, because Israel refuses to allow the peacekeepers to deploy as intended along the Lebanese-Israeli border.

But Dutch officers, speaking on condition of anonymity, said their government was concerned about the increasing confrontations between UNIFIL and the SLA.

Last weekend, Irish and Norwegian U.N. troops clashed with SLA militiamen who fired at their positions in two separate incidents near the villages of Tih and Mari.

A five-man Dutch squad was attacked, disarmed and robbed also by SLA gunmen last Thursday.

The 5,650-man UNIFIL was formed in 1978 to supervise the withdrawal of Israeli troops who invaded South Lebanon in March that year.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al Majali gives a statement to the press upon arrival at Queen Alia International Airport in Amman Thursday. Mr. Majali is flanked by Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Hazem Nusseibeh (left) and Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Sami Jodeh (Petra photo)

## Iraqi leader confers with Saudi envoy

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has held talks with an envoy from Saudi Arabia, which is trying to narrow differences between Iraq and Syria.

The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Thursday Saudi Education Minister Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Abdullah Al Khawwair delivered a message from King Fahd to Hussein, and Saudi embassy officials said Sheikh Abdul Aziz was given a reply.

## Larnaca gunmen charged with killing 3 Israelis

LARNACA, Cyprus (AP) — Three pro-Palestinian gunmen, a Briton and two Arabs, were formally charged in court Friday with the murder of three Israelis in the Larnaca Marina here last month.

The killing, on Sept. 25, sparked off a chain of international incidents that soured Arab-American relations, affected Middle East peace prospects and also resulted in the resignation of the Italian government.

The three gunmen appeared in the beachside court building only a couple of hundred metres from the marina where the three Israelis were shot dead aboard their small yacht.

Scores of armed police ringed the court precincts in an unprecedented security operation during the gunman's 15-minute court appearance in this peaceful tourist-resort town.

The three surrendered to the police 10 hours after seizing the Israeli yacht in a dawn attack.

Police Prosecutor Yannis Christodoulou told the court in earlier remand proceedings the

three shot an Israeli woman, Esther Palzur, 50, as soon as they boarded the yacht.

He added that Mrs. Palzur's husband, Reuven, 53, and a third Israeli aboard, Abraham Avneri, 55, were tied up and shot in the back of the head shortly before the gunmen who had been demanding the release of Palestinian commandos imprisoned in Israel, gave themselves up to the police.

The three gunmen face a total of eight charges, three for premeditated murder and five for the unlawful possession of firearms and explosives.

The three were listed on the charge sheet as: Khaled Abdel Kader Al Khatib, 28, a student; Abdul Hakim Sado Khalifa, 29, a labourer and Ian Michael Davidson, 25, a carpenter, with a British passport.

All three are accused collectively on the three charges for the murder of each of the three Israelis. They are also accused collectively on the five charges for the possession of firearms and explosives.

## Iran again warns U.S.

NICOSIA, Cyprus (Agencies) — An Iranian military leader says more attacks on Iran's oil export facilities could jeopardize U.S. interests in the Gulf region, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Friday.

IRNA, monitored here, quoted Col. Ali Sayyad Shirazi, commander of Iran's ground forces, as saying that if Iraq continues efforts to block his country's oil exports, "no one will be capable of protecting U.S. interests in the region."

IRNA said Col. Shirazi made the statement Thursday, noting that he doubted the United States would interfere directly in the Gulf war because "Iran thinks it improbable that the U.S. would commit such a dangerous act against itself."

Iran and Iraq have been at war for more than five years, and the United States and Iraq renewed

diplomatic relations last year after a break of 17 years.

Meanwhile Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi has won President Ali Khamenei's approval to appoint two radical ministers to the key portfolios of oil and the interior, IRNA reported Thursday.

It said Mr. Mousavi notified Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani that each of the 24 names — including seven fresh faces — in his proposed new cabinet now awaited the approval of parliament, which has in the past been reluctant to rubberstamp Mr. Mousavi's pro-public sector policies.

The newspaper Kayhan International noted that the list "does not differ much from the one Premier Mousavi proposed to the president at the beginning of this week."

## Majali returns from UNESCO conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al Majali returned to Amman Thursday evening after leading Jordan's delegation to the general conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) held in the Bulgarian capital of Sofia.

In a statement upon returning to Amman the minister said that Jordan has been elected member of UNESCO's executive council and this is a big step for this country "and reflects the close ties between Jordan and this world organisation."

This close cooperation, he said, will enable Jordan to benefit more and more from UNESCO's programmes in the future.

The minister said in his statement that all UNESCO member nations were in agreement on supporting the organisation in raising funds to help implement its various projects in the wake of the withdrawal of the United States which used to pay 25 per cent of UNESCO's annual budget.

During his stay in Bulgaria, Mr. Majali was received by the Bulgarian prime minister and the minister of education with whom, he said, he held talks on promoting bilateral relations.

## Swaredadahab, Mubarak to discuss relations

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak, recently preoccupied with crises in the Middle East, turns his attention Saturday to patching up Egypt's ties with Sudan, its turbulent southern neighbour.

Sudan's military leader, Gen. Abdul Rahman Swaredadahab, is due here for his first visit since he toppled Jaafar Numeiri in a coup last April. He last met Mr. Mubarak in Khartoum in June.

Traditionally close relations are based on Egypt's economic dependence on the River Nile, whose middle reaches are controlled by Sudan. They came under strain after the coup when Sudan signed a military protocol with Libya, Egypt's arch-foe.

On the other side, Khartoum was angry at the asylum Cairo offered to Numeiri, who is wanted in Sudan for trial on a string of charges ranging from treason to corruption.

Numeiri is believed still to be in Egypt, but a spokesman in Khartoum for the ruling Transitional Military Council (TMC) said Gen. Swaredadahab would ask Mr. Mubarak to hand him over.

Mr. Mubarak has already rejected one such request. Indications are that both sides will seek to bury disputes and stress points of broad agreement during Gen. Swaredadahab's three-day visit, which includes two scheduled sessions of private talks with Mr. Mubarak and additional discussions with aides.

Mr. Mubarak's political affairs advisor, Osama Al Baz, said last week in a newspaper interview the two leaders would discuss "new bases for integration."

The integration project, ens-

hined in a 1982 accord, envisages eventual political and economic unity, but has lost momentum. Government sources say Cairo is prepared to revise it to meet famine-stricken Sudan's development needs.

The two countries are also linked by a mutual defence agreement signed in 1976, which Sudanese leftists want scrapped but TMC members have pledged to uphold.

The two leaders are expected to discuss Sudan's security problems following a short-lived mutiny by some troops last month which the government said was a bid, backed by an unnamed foreign power, "to set up a Communist state in south Sudan."

They will also review the two-year-old civil war in the south, where fighting has continued despite an announcement last week by the rebel Sudan Peoples Liberation Army of a two-week ceasefire.

Meanwhile a Sudanese official said in an interview Thursday that Numeiri has sent tapes and leaflets for distribution in Sudan criticising the military rulers who deposed him last April.

The Khartoum daily Al Sahafa said Attorney-General Omar Abdulati described the tapes as a form of "psychological warfare."

The paper said the tapes and pamphlets were "hostile to the current democratic regime."

Numeiri was visiting Cairo when the military overthrew his government last April. Security officials said last month he had left his exile home in Cairo, but this has not been confirmed by the Egyptian government.

## 3 die, 17 injured in Egyptian train collision

CAIRO (AP) — A speeding passenger train rammed into a slow-moving one in the Nile Delta Thursday night, killing three people and injuring 17, railway police said Friday.

A police spokesman said both trains were headed from Cairo to the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria. The collision occurred near Tulk, about 25 kil-

ometres north of Cairo. The second train left Cairo 45 minutes after the first, said the spokesman, who refused to be identified by name. "The first train had slowed down while the second, coming from behind, was running at full speed," he said.

He said the last car of the first train and the engine of the second were derailed and overturned.

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Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 637169.

**SERVICE CLUBS**

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.

Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7.30 p.m.

Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2.00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club. Jabel Amman. Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261, 815410.

**CHURCHES**

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic). Jabel Amman, tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic). Jabel Lubdibeh, 637440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic). Jabel Hussein, 661757.

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox). Jabel, 623541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer). Jabel Amman, 678906.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 771531.

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 775261.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox). Ashrafieh, 771751.

**PRAYER TIMES**

04:24 Fair

05:45 (Sunrise) Dhuhr

11:29 'Asr

16:54 Maghreb

18:16 'Isha

TV & RADIO	
<b>JORDAN TELEVISION</b> Tel. 773111-19	2400 Close down
<b>MAIN CHANNEL</b>	
17:00 Koran	
17:30 Cartoons	
17:35 Children's Programmes	
18:30 Local Programmes	
19:00 Social Programmes	
19:30 News in Arabic	
20:30 Arabic Series	
21:30 Tomorrow's Programmes	
21:35 Programme Review	
22:30 News in English	
23:00 News in Arabic	
<b>FOREIGN CHANNEL</b>	
18:00 le tour du monde en 80 jours	
18:30 La portance de pain	
19:00 News in French	
19:15 Aujourd'hui en France	
19:30 News in Hebrew	
20:00 News in Arabic	
20:30 It's Your Move (Comedy Series)	
21:00 Documentary: Automatism	
21:25 Saturday Variety Show	
22:00 News in English	
22:30 Feature Film	
<b>RADIO JORDAN</b> 855 kHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & party on 95.0 KHz, SW Tel. 774111-15	
07:00 Light Music	
07:30 Newsweek	
08:00 Morning Show	
08:30 News Summary	
09:00 Pop Session	
10:00 News Summary	
10:30 Pop Session contd.	
11:00 News Summary	
11:30 Pop Session contd.	
12:00 News Bulletin	
12:30 Jordan Weekly	
13:00 Music	
13:30 Concert Hour	
14:00 News Summary	
14:30 Old Favorites	
15:00 Talking Points	
15:30 Animal Vegetable Mineral	
16:00 News Summary	
16:30 Top Twenty	
17:00 News	
17:30 Date with a Star	
18:00 The Young Sunday	
18:30 News Summary	
19:00 25 Years of Rock	
19:30 News Summary	
20:00 The Blues	
20:30 News Summary	
21:00 Country Music	
21:30 News Headlines	

WHAT'S GOING ON	
<b>TODAY'S EVENTS</b>	
<b>EXHIBITIONS</b>	
* UN exhibition at the Jordan International from Oct. 24 - 26.	
* An exhibition of paintings of Jordanian landscapes by Alan Byer at Al-Cezar Hotel, Amman (until Oct. 29).	
* An exhibition of paintings "Jordan 85" by Jordanian youth artists at Al-Art Gallery, Jabel Amman (until Oct. 28).	
* An exhibition of Pharaoh art by Egyptian artist Butrus Nour at the Housing Bank Complex, Jabel.	
* Exhibition entitled "From Gutenberg to Electronics" at the Goethe Institute. Open to public from Oct. 27 to Nov. 2 excluding Fridays.	
<b>VIDEO</b>	
* "Video Drama" at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.	
<b>CULTURAL CENTRES</b>	
Royal Cultural Centre. Tel. 6610267	
British Council 641520	
French Cultural Centre 637009	
Goethe Institute 641993	
Soviet Cultural Centre 644203	
Spanish Cultural Centre 624049	
Turkish Cultural Centre 639777	
Hays Arts Centre 665195	
Hussein Youth City 661793	
Y.W.C.A. 664251	
Amman Municipal Library 637111	
University of Jordan Library 843555	
<b>MUSEUMS</b>	
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Medaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al-Qa' (Clotel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.	
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a col-	

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
<b>JUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT</b>	
This information is supplied by Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
<b>ARRIVALS</b>	
02:25 Belgrade, Istanbul (JU)	
06:25 London, Larnaca (BA)	
08:45 Athens (A3)	
09:30 Beirut (RJ)	
09:45 Cairo (E4)	
09:45 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)	
09:50 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)	
10:00 Dhahran (RJ)	
11:00 Singapore (RJ)	
11:05 Cairo (E4)	
11:15 Riyadh (RJ)	
12:00 Muscat, Doha, Bahrain (RJ)	
12:30 Moscow (SU)	
12:55 Kuwait (RJ)	
16:15 Baghdad (RJ)	
17:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)	
17:30 Cairo (E4)	
18:00 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)	
18:15 Beirut (RJ)	
18:25 Istanbul (RJ)	
18:30 Paris, Damascus (RJ)	
19:30 Tripoli (RJ)	
19:55 Rome, Damascus (RJ)	
21:00 Frankfurt (RJ)	
02:25 Baghdad (RJ)	
<b>DEPARTURES</b>	
02:15 Istanbul, Belgrade (JU)	
06:20 Frankfurt (RJ)	
06:30 Athens (A3)	
08:10 Larnaca, London (BA)	
08:30 Athens (A3)	
09:45 Beirut (RJ)	
11:00 Brussels, Paris (RJ)	
11:45 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)	
11:50 Cairo (E4)	
12:00 London (RJ)	
12:15 Frankfurt (RJ)	
12:15 Vienna, New York (RJ)	
12:30 Rome (RJ)	
13:00 Istanbul (RJ)	
13:15 Bahrain (RJ)	
13:30 Cairo (E4)	
14:30 Moscow (SU)	
14:35 Kuwait (RJ)	
17:30 Baghdad (RJ)	
18:30 Karachi (RJ)	
19:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)	
20:10 Beirut (RJ)	
20:15 Jeddah (RJ)	
20:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)	
21:15 Cairo (E4)	
<b>MARITIME TRAFFIC</b>	
Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba, port:	
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<b>MONEY EXCHANGE</b>	
Thursday rates	
Local currency rates in JLD	
Bahraini dinar	100 JLD / 100.5
Dutch guilder	126.5 / 127.5
Egyptian pound	227.5 / 233.5
French franc	46.8 / 47.2
Irani dinar	361 / 367.5
Japanese yen (for 100)	174.3 / 175.7
Kuwaiti dinar	1285 / 1290.4
Libanese lira	22.2 / 23.2
Omani rial	1092.5 / 1100
Qatari riyal	104 / 104.8
Saudi riyal	104 / 104.8
Swedish crown	47.5 / 47.9
Swiss franc	174.1 / 175.5
Syrian lira	222 / 23.2
UAE dirham	103.2 / 104
U.K. sterling pound	140.6 / 144.9
U.S. dollar	376.7 / 379.9
W. German mark	142.7 / 143.8
<b>WEATHER</b>	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be fair. Variable winds will become southeasterly moderate at times. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.	
Low high temperature in deg.C.	
Amman	11/26
Aqaba	17/30
Dead Sea	10/26
Jordan Valley	18/31
Yesterday's high temperatures:	
Amman 24.7, Aqaba 30.4, Humidity readings: Amman 23 per cent, Aqaba 23 per cent.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
<b>EMERGENCIES</b>	
Amman governorate	891228
Amman civil defence	198, 199
Civil Defence Unit	271293, 273131
Civil Defence Unit	770733
Ambulance	193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade	198
First aid	630341
Blood bank	778303
Civil Defence rescue	661111
Fire headquarters	622900
Police rescue	102, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters	639141
Traffic police	8963901
Electric Power Co.	636814, 624881
Municipal water complaints	771125
Queen Alia Int. Airport	(08) 5330460
<b>NIGHT DUTY</b>	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Dawood Al Sanabouri	778526
Dr. Fakher Al Bilal	(-)
Natoun pharmacy	623671
Jabal Al Qa' pharmacy	771444
Jabal Al Qa' pharmacy	774492
Fayez pharmacy	661627
<b>TAXIS:</b>	
Hussein taxi	721776
Khalid taxi	664889
Rosam taxi	81180
Abi taxi	621127
Khayyam taxi	641541
Mashhour taxi	625021
<b>HOSPITALS</b>	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn.	642416
Maternity, J. Amn.	642416
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Maternity, J. Amn.	656140
Palatine, Shamsi	664174



## Symposium calls for women's participation in development

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day symposium on population issues and the role of trade unions, organised in cooperation with two United Nations agencies, ended in Amman Thursday.

Among the recommendations were calls on the government to encourage women to participate in development projects, to establish factories and to implement more projects in various urban and rural areas of Jordan.

The symposium, in a final statement, called for spreading population education to all sectors in Jordanian society due to its significance in the lives of the Jordanian people, in both the social and economic fields.

The recommendations called on the government to give Jordanians priority over foreign nationals in employment and to ensure health security for all members of society through establishing health centres in all regions. They called on the government to speed up work on the new labour law which would make provisions in social services to workers and their unions.

In order to achieve more balance in comprehensive social and economic development there is a need for implementing projects and building factories in rural and urban regions on an equal basis, the final communiqué said. It called on the government to give more attention to the role of Jordanian women, granting them maternity leave, establishing nurseries for the children of working women and allowing married women to retain their jobs.

The symposium was organised by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development in cooperation with the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions and in conjunction with the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Centre for Population Activities.



His Majesty King Hussein and Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath greet Her Majesty Queen Noor at the airport upon the Queen's return from the United States (Petra photo)

## Queen Noor returns from United States conference on international drug abuse

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor returned to Amman Thursday evening at the end of a visit to the United States where she led Jordan's delegation to the First Ladies Conference on Drug Abuse held in New York City.

The conference was organised by United States First Lady Nancy Reagan and attended by first ladies of 29 nations. It was called to discuss growing international drug abuse and the measures families can take to stem the problem.

The Queen addressed the conference and later called at Phoenix House drug rehabilitation centre in New York where she was briefed on the centre's development and services. She discussed with the centre's supervisors and officials the prospect of exchanging information and expertise with concerned Jordanian institutions.

Upon her return in Amman,

Queen Noor was met by His Majesty King Hussein. Their Royal Highnesses Princess Sarvath, Princess Basma, and His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid, the chief chamberlain, as well as the wives of the prime minister, the court minister, the U.S. ambassador in Jordan and the British charge d'affaires in Amman.

Upon directives from the Queen, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh, who accompanied Queen Noor on the visit to the United States, Thursday toured a number of health centres in order to benefit from their experiences. The information will be used in the establishment of a national institute for the treatment of children's diseases which will be set up by the Queen Noor Foundation.

Dr. Hamzeh visited a national

centre, affiliated to the George Washington University, which offers physiotherapy, surgery and other services for children.

Later, he called at a hospital for military servicemen, which offers treatment in retired military personnel, and was briefed on its services. Dr. Hamzeh visited a rehabilitation centre in Virginia which offers rehabilitation treatment to young drug addicts, and is due to visit an institute in Washington D.C. which offers treatment and rehabilitation to mute children.

The minister will also visit another centre providing rehabilitation services for the mentally ill and will try to benefit from its systems and organisation in establishing a similar centre in Amman which the Health Ministry plans to build next year.

## Jordan continues to seek peaceful end to Mideast problem, Prince Hassan says

Crown Prince addresses celebration to mark U.N. 40th anniversary

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Thursday that Jordan will continue to seek a peaceful solution to the Middle East problem that will secure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland.

In a speech at the Jordan International Hotel delivered during a celebration marking the 40th anniversary of the United Nations, Prince Hassan said that in spite of obstacles Jordan would continue to pursue policies of moderation and stability in its economic, political, and social relations with the nations of the world.

Describing the continued agony of the Arab occupied territories, Prince Hassan said that since 1967, the Israelis have occupied the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and practised all forms of arbitrary policies and inhuman treatment against Arabs living there.

In violation of all international norms and principles, Israel has denied the Palestinian people their legitimate human rights, confiscated their lands and homes and established settlements to strengthen its occupation of Arab territory, Prince Hassan said.

He said that the United Nations has adopted several important resolutions on the Middle East question and the Palestine problem, but the Israeli authorities have disregarded them and failed to respect the will of the world community. Israel has barred all United Nations fact-finding missions from visiting the occupied lands to study the situation and the condition of the Arab inhabitants, Prince Hassan added. He said that Jordan continues to cooperate with the United Nations and with all peace-loving nations for the purpose of achieving justice and regaining the usurped territories, so that the whole region can live in peace and freedom.

Prince Hassan said that the United Nations has been tackling the Middle East conflict since its creation. He quoted His Majesty King Hussein's statement to the General Assembly in which the King said that the United Nations and the Palestine problem were twins born from the same womb of war and brought into the world with pain and agony.

"Though not just and durable

United Nations depends on the will of nations grouped in the world organisation and the determination of their governments and peoples to defeat all enemies of peace, he added.

Over the past three decades, the United Nations has helped many a nation to obtain freedom and independence and in end a long era of colonialism and foreign rule. These freed nations now form the majority of the United Nations members, the minister pointed out.

The United Nations was created after the Second World War to help all nations to regain their rights and independence and to establish relations among nations based on mutual respect, Dr. Nuseibeh continued.

He said that the rich nations of the world should offer more to help the poor countries to improve their social and economic condition and should exert stronger efforts to prevent the plague of war.

Also speaking at the celebration was Mr. Adnan Ra'uf, the resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme, who said that it is important to utilise this opportunity to embark on a necessary process of rejuvenating the United Nations.

Mr. Ra'uf went on to say that Prince Hassan took the first step in that direction when three years ago he made an appeal from the rostrum of the General Assembly to introduce the human element into the process of development, by calling for a "New International Human Order," and reminding the U.N. of the "moral aspects of development."

He said that the ultimate purpose of development is the advancement of human beings and the enhancement of human values and added that the appeal from the Crown Prince served to remind that development cannot be achieved without a moral content.

Mr. Ra'uf continued that the United Nations offices functioning to improve the quality of life in the Kingdom in cooperation with the Jordanian authorities. He added that the agencies have also been trying to promote the major purposes of the United Nations: "To achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character."

Outlining the activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Mr. Ra'uf said that despite of a chronic financial deficit, UNRWA continues to render its relief services to Palestinian refugees.

Mr. Ra'uf continued that the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) services in Jordan since 1960 have provided support in the fields of teacher training, health education, water and sanitation, pre-school education and vocational training for women.

He said the World Food Programme (WFP) has so far committed \$107.355 million worth of food in Jordan and that 23 development projects and 14 emergency projects at a total cost to WFP of \$84 million have been successfully completed, in fields ranging from soil conservation, olive tree planting, afforestation and construction of agricultural roads.

The success or failure of the

## Doctors, clergy discuss diagnosis of brain death

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A pan-Arab congress on anaesthesia and intensive care concluded in Amman Thursday after three days of meetings by eminent specialists. Topics on up to the minute medical achievements all around the world were discussed in the congress, the first of its kind in the Kingdom.

The closing session was dedicated to a panel discussion on brain death with the participation of leading doctors, Islamic and Christian clergymen.

In the panel, lecturers tackled brain death from the medical, religious legal standpoints. On the medical angle, Lieutenant General Helmi Hijazi and other doctors explained that brain death is characterised by either the sudden stop of heart functions and breathing or a complete seizure of the brain.

Causes of primary brain destruction are direct strokes on the

brain, hemorrhage, intra-cranial or infraction of the brain in addition to an acute lack of oxygen. Dr. Hijazi and the team said. They also discussed cases of brain death victims in irreversible comas or connected to artificial respirators and said that a sufficient period of time should be given in order to diagnose that the destruction is incurable.

On the Islamic perspective, Dean of the Islamic Law (Sharia) Faculty at the University of Jordan Ibrahim Keilani said that organs from a brain death victim could be transplanted in another human being to save his life. Dr. Keilani, however, said a committee of specialised doctors should thoroughly examine the deceased person to medically confirm the state of brain death. None of the doctors participating in the committee should take part in any transplant surgery performed on patients having organs from the patient in question, he added.

## Medical malpractice: measures to deal with a growing social concern

The following is the second of a two-part article on medical malpractice in Jordan and the measures being taken to deal with the issue. Part one of the article appeared in Thursday's issue of the Jordan Times

By Najwa Najjar  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Great strides have been taken to eliminate the increasing incidence of medical malpractice in Jordan. Dr. Mustapha Baranawi, secretary general of the Jordan Medical Council (JMC) told the Jordan Times that he believes a worldwide deterioration in the standards of the medical profession has led to a rise in accidental medical mistakes.

The four most common reasons for medical malpractice, he continued, are lack of a medical knowledge, negligence, economics, and intentional malpractice. Even though a patient can take his case to either the Jordan Medical Association (JMA) or the courts, the JMC has been seriously working to fulfill the objective of raising the standard of the medical profession.

In 1982 Jordan was one of the first countries in the Arab World to establish a local medical council when the JMC was created. The formation of local medical councils was recommended in 1978 when ministers from all over the Arab World met in Kuwait to discuss means to combat the problem of medical malpractice.

Members of the JMC feel that medical schools are generally of a good standard. In order to ensure that all students meet certain minimum requirements, however, any person wishing to practice medicine in Jordan must first pass the JMC exam, which has been mandatory since Feb. 16, 1982.

The first step for general practitioner candidates who studied abroad is one year of training under the supervision of the Ministry of Health. This training is also required for those who have studied in Jordan. After the year of training, all candidates must sit for the general practitioner qualifying exam. The minimum requirement in order to practice as a general practitioner.

Specialists must also meet certain minimum standards. Those who study in Jordan must train for three or four years, depending on the specialisation. The training programme is conducted in conjunction with the Jordan University Medical College, the Royal Medical Services, and the Ministry of Health. Those who studied abroad and have been certified abroad must sit for an exam. If they do not pass, they are given the licence to practice as general practitioners only.

Training of both general practitioners and specialists is an important step to give physicians and specialists a minimum level of

knowledge and experience. The exam is a means of standardising the medical profession in Jordan. The obligatory training and exams are critical elements in the effort to achieve two of the JMC's objectives: To raise and maintain the standard of the medical and practical level of physicians for each speciality in cooperation with teaching institutions and to specify the necessary minimum training for general practice and for each speciality in accordance with the latest advances in medical knowledge.

Dr. Baranawi feels that if the JMC succeeds in fulfilling these objectives, utilising the means described above, 90 per cent of accidental medical malpractice could be eliminated.

Additional suggestions to improve the medical profession were given to the Jordan Times by a physician who preferred to remain anonymous. He said, "It is a double-edged knife. You must have the necessary facilities and centres, as well as the doctors and nurses. He said: "Many times the death of the patient is due to the lack of facilities. Imagine, in Jordan civilian physicians do not even have a coronary care ambulance. Many times I had to take a patient who was having a heart attack to the hospital in my car. If this patient dies, is it my fault?"

The other suggestions he made to improve the medical profession and to reduce medical malpractice were casualty centres on the roads outside of Amman, mandatory inspections of clinics and surgical areas and equipment, circulars to provide up-to-date information on diseases and treatment methods, new services for patients such as meals on wheels for those whose lives depend on eating diets prepared by doctors and mandatory continuous medical education.

Dr. Hassan Kreis, president of the Jordan Medical Association (JMA) said that incentives to encourage physicians to participate in continuous medical training programmes are presently under study. One possibility is to make lecture attendance a mandatory requirement for membership in the medical association. Another is to the seniority to the accumulation of points earned by attending training sessions. Physicians' questionnaires might be yet another method to force them to open books and refresh their memories, he said.

The general consensus reached by the various physicians interviewed by the Jordan Times was that prevention is the best medicine for medical malpractice.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Syrian industry minister due Monday

AMMAN (Petra) — Syrian Minister of Industry Ali Tarabulsi will arrive in Amman Monday to head his country's delegation to the Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Company meetings. Mr. Tarabulsi will also head the ordinary session of the Amman-based Arab Organisation for Industrial Development due to be held here on Oct. 30.

### Jordan, Iraq discuss oil projects

BAGHDAD (J.T.) — Jordan and Iraq Thursday held talks on promoting bilateral cooperation in the oil industry, exchanging expertise and setting up joint oil projects. The talks were conducted by teams led by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib and Iraqi Oil Minister Assem Al Ureibi.

### Arab ministers conclude education talks

BAGHDAD (Petra) — The third Arab ministerial conference on higher education and scientific research in the Arab World concluded in Baghdad Thursday. The conference chairman and head of Jordan's delegation Dr. Nassereddin Al Assad said that the conference endorsed a proposal for establishing an Arab centre for Arabisation and publication, and another for higher studies and scientific research. Dr. Assad, who is also minister of higher education, said in a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, in Baghdad that Arab countries will shortly choose a site for these two centres.

### Ministry issues U.N. anniversary stamps

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Communications has issued commemorative stamps to mark the United Nations' 40th anniversary. The stamps are of 60 and 125 fils denominations and circulate to various post offices in the country on Friday.

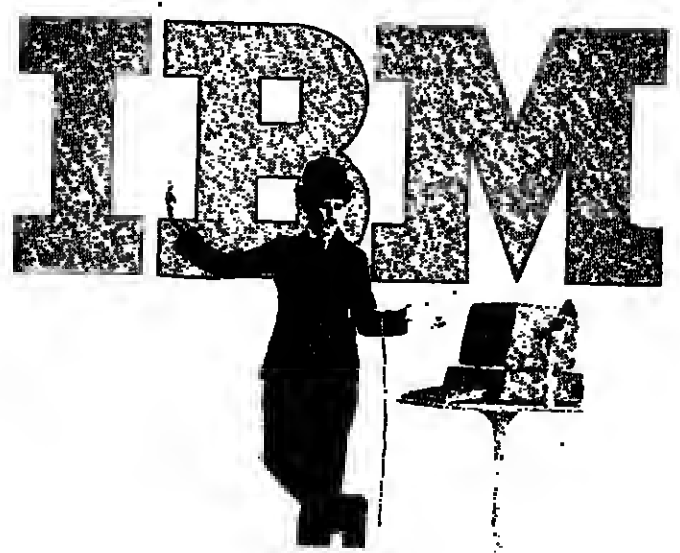
### First phase of Russeifa park completed

AMMAN (Petra) — The first phase of a national park planted with forest trees has been completed at Russeifa, and handed over to Russeifa Municipality. A municipality spokesman said that a total of 136,000 dunnams of land were developed in the first phase at a cost of JD 47,000.

The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany extends its sincere congratulations to the Jordan Times on the occasion of its 10th Anniversary wishing the editing staff of the newspaper and the Jordan Press Foundation every success throughout the years to come.

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# Media: Past failures and future demands

By H.R.H. Crown Prince Hassan

"THE PENNY-papers of New York do more to govern this country than the White House at Washington." So said Wendell Phillips some years ago, little realising how much greater the influence of the press was to become even within his own lifetime. Never in human history has society been more media-oriented than it is today. The last three decades have seen a revolution in the methods of news-gathering, dissemination and analysis. Suddenly, we can all become each other's neighbours, with everything that implies, to be enriched, influenced and irritated by each other. As a result, the media bear a heavy responsibility not only as regards the factual reporting of news but, and this is the thorn in the cushion of the editorial chair, as a powerful influence in the shaping of public opinion on any contested issue in the international arena. By opening up the way for exchanges of values, information and propaganda of unparalleled impact, the media have introduced a new dimension to international affairs which was virtually unknown in the diplomacy of bygone days.

No region in the world has been more affected by the transition from classical diplomacy to one dictated by a new world order than the Middle East. The role of the world media has been instrumental in moulding, and sadly, on occasion, in twisting or distorting the West's view of the Arab Middle East: its people, heritage, culture and religion. Speaking first and foremost as an Arab and Jordanian, I feel that the picture painted in the Western media of our region, achievements and aspirations has often been one-sided and one-dimensional. Indeed, I believe it has often been hostile, based upon distortion and a lack of knowledge, conscious or otherwise, of us as a people. It is only recently that the West has taken an active interest in trying to rediscover what constitutes the modern Arab.

Naturally, no one side can be held wholly responsible. Media, as has been said before, are a two-way street and while consistent misrepresentation is a fact of life, we Arabs cannot continue to lay the blame for such misrepresentation entirely on others. Rather we must explore the principal causes of the present misunderstanding between the Arab World and the West and attempt to analyse positively the reasons for this damaging situation and how it may best be remedied. Crucial to any analysis of relations between the West and the Arab World is a realistic concept of the historical interaction between these great nations and the dominant forces which have led to

the formulation of their opinions and perceptions of each other. Let us first briefly consider this relationship from an historical perspective.

During the Graeco-Roman era, geographical, political and cultural aspects of life in the Middle East and Europe were in constant interaction. As this period came to a close, the peoples of these regions shared both the ethics and values of the monotheistic religions originating in the Middle East. The years from the 7th to the 15th century saw the continuation of this cultural and religious interaction between Christian Europe and the largely Muslim Arab Middle East. What concerns us here today is the fact that this interplay succeeded in generating, not increased cooperation and mutual understanding as might have been expected, but deep-rooted feelings of hostility between the Arabs and the Europeans.

As the Arab Muslim tide receded from Europe and the European armies left the Middle East at the end of the Crusader campaigns, mutual feelings of respect mixed with suspicion and hostility began to evolve between the Arabs and the Europeans. This phase of history came to a close with the rise of the Ottoman Empire, during which time there was little, if any, interchange between the Europeans and the Arabs. Perceptions and misconceptions remained frozen and were carried over into the 20th century, which marked a new beginning and has continued to define the framework of understanding between Western and Arab peoples.

After a hiatus in relations lasting some five hundred years, the Arab Revolt broke on the eve of the Arab Revolt led by my great grandfather, Sherif Hussein, in 1916, who, with the other leaders, fully realised the need to re-establish ties and build new bridges of understanding with the world powers, particularly the nations of the West. The Arab renaissance was marked by a desire to look to the West for support and assistance in meeting the challenges ahead. Tragically, their determination to pursue this end was met, some might say thwarted, by two emerging forces: neo-colonialism and the Zionist movement.

Both these forces carried within them their residual perceptions of the Arab people; old prejudices were new clothes. The neo-colonialist movement was more than a stumbling block to the realisation of the national aspiration of the newly-awakened Arab people. It ran against the declared intentions of the leaders of the Arab Revolt who were determined to reconstruct their soc-

ety and build a unified Arab nation-state, and led instead to fragmentation in the Arab East. Its inherent hostility and racism were perhaps most evident in the Balfour Declaration of 1917, when a British minister gave land, not his to give, to another people, against the will of the indigenous population, in a manner that would have seemed not only unjust, but totally unthinkable in a Western context. With Zionism, in many ways also a Western colonialist movement, a new and more sinister phase of anti-Arab propaganda began.

It is evident then, that later perceptions and in-built hostility here coloured the way in which the Arabs and the West view each other from their earliest contact until the present day. In short, we can identify three major sources for the West's distorted image of our people. First there was the anti-Islamic ideology of the Middle Ages which found its full expression in the Crusades; then there was the racism of the Imperialist Age and the anti-Arab propaganda of the Zionist movement which followed hard on its heels, and last, regrettably, is the behaviour of the Arabs themselves, which has often contributed to re-inforcing their negative image.

Today, the obstacles to a better understanding between both peoples, based on the principles of mutual interest and respect, should not seem insurmountable. Unfortunately, however, the road towards achieving that objective has proved extremely rocky as a result of Zionist transgression and the imposition of the expansionist Zionist scheme on Arab land and Arab rights.

Political Zionism has always been keenly aware of the power of the press. After all, it was through the work of a journalist, Theodor Herzl, the founder of modern Zionism, that Zionism became a cause celebre in the West. Skillfully exploiting Western fears and anti-Arab prejudices, the Zionists harnessed the power of the media, as they continue to do, stopping short of nothing to further their ends.

What followed was one of the saddest chapters in modern international relations. Arabs were portrayed in a manner which made their contribution to humanity, their hopes and aspirations, their place in history and their sense of dignity, shrink into irrelevance. They were dehumanised and portrayed as outcasts. It was in the United States in particular, the anti-Arab campaign was most concentrated. There the media assumed earlier a more influential role than elsewhere and with the additional power of television, was able to effectively direct public opinion. Strongly in-

fluenced by Zionists, the media slant was hardly ever objective.

The resulting campaign against the Arabs managed to silence voices of moderation within the media itself. Certainly there were conscientious individuals who tried to oppose the accepted opinion of the day, to allow the facts to speak for themselves and to right this injustice, but they were rapidly labelled as anti-Semitic and became easy victims to the guilt-ridden nations of the West with regard to the Jewish experience. The conscience of the West was locked in sympathy with Israel and set on a misguided course inimical to the Arabs.

Reaction by the Arabs to this campaign, which falsified their history and denigrated their identity, has been one of bitter disillusionment with the West. They cannot understand how Western society, which nurtured the principles of social justice and preached the right of self-determination and human dignity, can remain so insensitive to this historical distortion. Naively perhaps, many Arabs believed that justice would triumph if only the truth were known.

Since the creation of the State of Israel, five wars have been fought in the Middle East; from the ashes of death and destruction, an image reflecting a more accurate reality of the nature of the conflict is finally emerging. Disinformed opinion is giving way to realistic assessments and, as the invasion of the Lebanon in 1982 and the recent raid on Tunis have shown, the truth will out. Many are beginning to re-examine earlier premises about the nature of the conflict which for so long have dominated and shaped the West's perceptions of the Arab people. I am happy to say that the media have played an important role in this process of reevaluation.

As relationships between nations and states become more complex, conveying half-truths, generalities, distortions or disinformation becomes an increasingly dangerous game. Mutual understanding is a crucial requirement both for the reduction of the looming threat of armed conflict and the enhancement of cooperation between nations. The role of the media is central to the achievement of both these objectives.

If I may adapt a quote from John K. Winkler, for ten years now the Jordan Times has carried out, rather literally, the dictum of Mr. Dooley that the mission of the modern newspaper is to "comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable." This in itself is no mean feat and I believe our press has taken great steps in bridging the information gap, yet it still runs the risk of preaching only to the

converted. The potential for presenting an objective portrait of world events lies in the hands of the mass media. Today's journalist represents a real power for freedom and human dignity. What is required is a concerted and cooperative effort to use this opportunity to bring understanding between peoples. At issue for the Arabs is whether our voice will be heard, and whether the issues will be presented in a more balanced manner. Through mutual respect for and comprehension of the cultures and values of both the Arabs and nations of the world, the press can play an active and positive role in achieving understanding, harmonious relations and peace between the international community of states.

Unfortunately, there is a breed of journalist who is never happy unless other people — preferably uncouth, strangely dressed and speaking in "barbaric" tongues — are trying to kill him. If he is not allowed to go crawling through jungles infested with spear-throwers and ghostly diseases or spend his time avoiding missiles, hurled at some government office by a howling mob, he declines rapidly and emergency restorative treatment, such as a couple of weeks in a war-torn area, is often vital. If he is not to go under, yet although it is true that "Harmony seldom makes a headline" (Silas Bent, "Strange Bedfellows"), the press should not rest on its laurels knowing it has stunned us with shocking information. To give us information is its office, yet it must go further in its attempts to evaluate information for the promotion of international understanding. Our journalists should be a mass of silent sentinels endlessly spelling the alphabet in the name of humanitarianism and truth.

Indeed, humanitarian issues lie at the heart of all concern for fairness and decency in intra-national discourse. In this spirit I am glad to report that the call for an international order at the United Nations General Assembly in 1981 has resulted in the creation of an independent commission.

The concept of the commission is to exchange information on humanitarian issues, broadly defined, which is after all, an essential part of the media's work. But we ought to view this as a long-term process, not an event-oriented activity. At an international level a question one might ask is how the American and European public, with its heavy emphasis on strategy and resources, can view people and their problems, or even hope to consider politics where people matter, unless a reliable source of unbiased information evolves through agreement between like-

minded people? To state the formula in simple terms:

We, as Arabs, should move from the value-oriented realm of information to the more objective sphere of informatics, and the Western media should discard the emotionally-laden stereotype in favour of a more balanced and objective view of a world, which though they can perceive but dimly, they can surely learn to respect. The North-South dialogue could thus be extended to the arena of informatics. If we are to make any progress on the two principal issues of our time — the conflict of man against man and of man against nature — we can no longer afford to stimulate a highly cynical public with half-truths and an equally indigestible regime of international perceptions. My proposal would then be for a modest step in promoting regional informatics systems, making full use of advanced satellite technology. These would serve as sub-systems for a larger international network, which would certainly be a conduit for the international press, but would be sustained and somewhat humanised, by a two-way flow of information which is unbiased and undiluted by the exigencies of sensationalism or pressures of deadlines. In this endeavour, governments can play a part, but equally non-governmental institutions should take a decisive lead. One example of how that is being done is the Arab Thought Forum which was established in Jordan four years ago. The forum's objectives centre around developing contemporary Arab thought with regard to basic issues facing the Arab World, and its relations with the developing world as well as the international system. In an attempt to have the best that idealism and practicality can jointly offer, the forum relies on both intellectuals and policy-makers.

There is no objective impediment to utilising the resources of such regional organisations in the exchange of information to which I have alluded. We have in fact, engaged in a free exchange of this kind with groups around the world, including North America, Europe, the Far East and, we hope, in the not too distant future, to expand this dialogue to South America. The promotion of like-mindedness demands a creative vision which focuses on compatible building-blocks, rather than on ideological differences. You may choose to view the concept of regional informatics as one step along this imaginative path. As you review the achievements of one of our most determined, dynamic, if at times infuriating newspapers, and its future development, I sincerely hope that you will.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

### Al Ra'i: No to blackmail

KING HUSSEIN in an interview with correspondents of world press and television networks spoke with clarity and frankness, rejecting any unilateral negotiations with Israel. He stressed Jordan's call for the convening of an international conference to reach a comprehensive peace.

King Hussein also rejected linking any arms deal with the United States with the peace process, and current initiatives to end the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jordan, he said, seeks to establish peace but in cooperation with all Arab states involved in the conflict because it wants a peace that would last and based on right and justice.

King Hussein's statement to the press served as a blow to the U.S. Congress which refuses to sell Jordan defensive weapons unless it enters into direct negotiations with Israel. The underhand dealing of the U.S. Congress is a kind of blackmail practiced against Jordan and reflects America's total bias to the Zionist state.

Jordan, in its endeavour to arrive at an honourable peace, will never succumb to this blackmail or any sort of pressure.

### Al Dustour: An important visit

KING HUSSEIN'S meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Amman and their talks on Arab affairs and Palestinian issues reflects both leaders' keenness on joining hands in the face of common dangers and Jordanian-Egyptian concern over the future of this area and its people.

This was an important meeting, coming on the heels of weeks full of serious developments and events that were planned by our enemies to abort all efforts for a just peace.

The developments which began with the Larnaca affair included Israel's air raid on Tunis and the seizure of the Italian cruiser and the hijack of the Egyptian airliner which all led to the abortion of a scheduled meeting between a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the British foreign secretary.

In view of the seriousness of the situation the two leaders decided to meet to re-assess their position with the purpose of foiling Israel's plots and conspiracies against our nation.

The visit is also important since it comes within a framework of Arab efforts to end differences among Arab countries.

### Sawt Al Shaab: Pursuing peace

IT IS because the Jordanians and Egyptians face the same challenges and look towards the achievement of the same goals. President Mubarak and King Hussein met in Amman Thursday. The two leaders realise the futility of the Camp David accord and of any separate treaties with Israel which do not provide for a solution to the Palestine problem.

Both leaders realise that there can be no real solution to the Middle East problem unless the whole question was discussed with the participation of Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon as well as the PLO at an international conference.

Both leaders also realise that they cannot accept Shimon Peres's formula contained in his address to the United Nations' General Assembly because it has no provision for a final solution to the Palestine problem.

The two leaders had to meet in view of the serious situation in our region because of the dangerous developments over the past weeks.

They had to meet in the face of the conspiracies hatched by the Zionist groups in the United States and their pressure to force Jordan to enter into direct negotiations with Israel.

Thursday's

### Al Ra'i: Israeli fears

ISRAEL'S WAR minister Yitzhak Rabin Wednesday expressed his fear of any rapprochement among Arab countries because, he said, that would affect Egypt's stand vis-a-vis its separate peace treaty with Israel. Of course there is nothing that worries Israel more than Arab consensus and rapprochement, and the rebuilding of bridges of understanding and cooperation among Arab states.

Needless to say, that any rapprochement among Arab countries represents the first constructive step towards a total reconciliation among them. Rabin seems to be afraid of the possibility of Egypt moving away from the Camp David agreement as it witnesses the other Arab countries bolstering their ties.

Jordan which has been working to re-establish solidarity among Arab countries will go ahead with its endeavour despite the Rabin statements which imply some threats to the Arabs in general and Egypt in particular.

Jordan will not be discouraged from aiming at achieving national goals and repelling all dangers now threatening the Arab nation.

### Sawt Al Shaab: The Chinese connection

REPORTS FROM Peking indicate that China and Iran have made good progress in their negotiations over Chinese arms sales to Tehran. China, the reports say, will supply Iran with Scud tactical missiles

## Multiple economic reasons of why Israelis do not want peace

By Zuhair S. Sabbagh

THE MOVES towards an American-Palestinian rapprochement and possible Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian negotiations are the first step in a process that will be dominated by the developments that have taken place inside the Israeli-occupied territories over 18 years of occupation. The hard facts of Israeli settlement, land expropriation and economic entanglement in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have all helped to generate a situation whose impact will dictate the course and outcome of any future negotiations. It is likely that the clash of interests between the Arab and Israeli positions will lead to an outcome that will make it hard for the Palestinians to achieve even their minimal goals.

According to a study published in March this year by the American-funded West Bank Data Base Project, 52 per cent of the land area of the West Bank is now under Israeli control and partially occupied by Israeli settlers, who at the end of 1984 numbered 45,000 in 114 settlements. About 45 per cent of these settlers live in the expanded Jerusalem city boundaries. Another recent study carried out by the former advisor on Arab affairs to Jerusalem's municipality, Meron Benvenisti, revealed that Israeli investment in Jewish settlements — excluding security-type investment — amounted to approximately \$1.7 billion in the period 1968-1984. Figures for the defence ministry's investment in the occupied territories are classified but estimated at billions of dollars.

and receive in hard currency from their various payments, remittances and grants. Altogether the potential financial loss to Israel of abandoning the occupied territories may surpass an annual revenue of \$1.2 billion. This does not include the benefit to the Israeli economy of the occupied territories as a pool of cheap labour. An estimated 100,000 grossly underpaid West Bank and Gaza Palestinian workers travel daily to work in Israel, mostly in menial, "dirty" jobs that Israelis shun. Another crucial, often forgotten factor is that Israel's scanty water resources make it heavily dependent for water on the West Bank, from which it receives one third of its needs. Evacuating the occupied territories would have the most serious consequences for Israel in this regard.

These are obvious, crucial differences between Israel's interests in the occupied territories and its previous stake in Sinai, which had little economic value once the oil-fields had been returned to Egypt. Sinai's 70,000, mainly nomadic inhabitants were negligible as a labour force and insignificant as a market for Israeli goods. Returning Sinai to Egypt was not an economic loss but a major gain for Israel, a step that neutralised Egypt's value as a military deterrent while opening it up as a potentially vast market; it also gave Israel an almost free hand in the occupied territories.

In order to safeguard these benefits, Israel's policy toward the occupied territories has been to erode their indigenous economy

and to build an asset that lends strong support to the Israeli desire to annex them.

All Zionist parties, whether of the left or right, regard the annexation of the occupied territories as a desirable and vital Israeli interest. But the "accidental" presence of over one million Palestinians forms an obstacle that temporarily prevents such a move. In line with the rich Zionist tradition of solving "demographic problems" by means of mass evictions, both the Likud and the Labour parties are in favour of exploiting a future war to expel huge numbers of Palestinians from the occupied territories. The former head of Israeli military intelligence, General Aharon Yariv, has revealed that such a plan exists and the means of carrying it out have been prepared. The difference between the Likud and the Labour positions on the issue centres on what to do while awaiting the opportune moment for a population transfer. The Likud calls for the imposition of Israeli "sovereignty" over the entire occupied territories, under which those Palestinians who remain would have a Camp David-type limited autonomy, opting for either Israeli or Jordanian citizenship. Likud's vision of such "autonomy" is little more than an enforced Palestinian docility designed to legitimise the status of occupation.

The Labour party, on the other hand, regards outright annexation as undesirable under the present circumstances. It fears the Likud's "solution" because it would create a bi-national state in which the Palestinians constituted ap-

proving the problems of dealing with a rebellious Palestinian population. Under this Labour plan, the Palestinian inhabitants would be either Jordanian citizens or stateless, but still effectively under Israeli control.

Labour's policy has always been to "establish facts" while maintaining a low-key, conciliatory rhetoric at least in public. Faced with a PLO-Jordanian willingness to negotiate with Israel, the Labour-led coalition government has made one concession: Israel's willingness to negotiate with conservative Palestinian elements from the occupied territories. Two months ago Prime Minister Peres declared: "Israel is ready to immediately meet with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for direct negotiations", adding that his coalition government "is ready for these negotiations without any pre-conditions". A month later he declared: "We are against negotiations with PLO members as well as against an international conference", adding that "the PLO chose a list of members for the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation which included PLO members and members of the Palestine National Council and none of which are from the territories". Palestinian representatives, according to Peres, are persons who represent the residents "in this region, and who are willing to negotiate without terrorism". However, Peres expressed his readiness to talk with some members of the PNC who are not ardent supporters of the PLO.

In response, Likud's leader

## Austria: Thirty years of active neutrality

OCTOBER 26TH marks the thirtieth anniversary of the day on which the law formulating Austria's status of permanent neutrality was passed by Parliament. A fitting enough occasion to be commemorated in the country's National Day. At the time all parties concerned gave unanimous approval to the declaration of permanent neutrality as the foremost principle of Austria's relations with the rest of the world. In the intervening years Austria's foreign policy, evolving within the framework of neutrality, has consistently earned the unreserved respect of East and West. North and South while refuting the apprehension voiced in some quarters that neutrality could give way to neutralism.

Since 1955 the post of United Nations Secretary General has been held for two successive terms of office by an Austrian; the Austrian capital Vienna has become one of the three permanent seats of the United Nations Organisation; Austrians have risen to senior positions on the U.N. staff; and within the Council of Europe the office of president has been occupied once, that of secretary general twice by Austrians. None of these appointments would have been possible without the high esteem in which Austria's consistent policy of neutrality is held.

The most recent demonstration of the recognition which is accorded to Austria's role as an active member of the community of democratic nations and as a dependable treaty partner is the choice of Vienna as the venue for the third CSCE follow-up conference. At the Helsinki meeting of foreign ministers marking the tenth-

went on to stress Austria's absolute commitment to the full implementation of all provisions of the Helsinki accords, referring explicitly to the issue of human rights. He identified as a cornerstone of Austria's foreign policy the principle of using the closest possible cooperation in every field but especially in economic relations to exert a positive influence on the prevailing political climate. "What we need," Gratz concluded, "is the political will on the part of governments to infuse the CSCE process with new impetus. Austria is ready to make its contribution."

Austria has earned itself a good name not only amongst the world's politicians; year in, year out more and more holiday-makers and conference participants from all parts of the globe travel to this country. Certainly Austria's scenic beauty and the degree to which its countryside remains unspoiled are major factors in its popularity as a tourist land. Yet there can be no doubt that people also visit this country in such large numbers because they value the human qualities they perceive in their hosts and because they know that their stay will not be marred by such detrimental occurrences as strikes in those areas which are likely to affect them: in public transport, the postal services or the hotel and catering trade.

The connection between Austria's status of permanent neutrality and its social stability may at first sight appear tenuous. Yet the link exists, for only a state which is politically, economically and socially well-ordered and



# ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY OCTOBER 26, 1985 5

## From H.E., the minister of Information



King Hussein's leadership, is very keen on maintaining a strong relationship between development activities in the Kingdom and activities on the Arab and international levels with the purpose of preserving strong ties with world nations and increasing scopes of cooperation and friendship with their peoples.

It is in this context that we consider the Jordan Times as one of the most active channels to achieve this goal and a reflection of Jordan's image to friendly nations and the world at large.

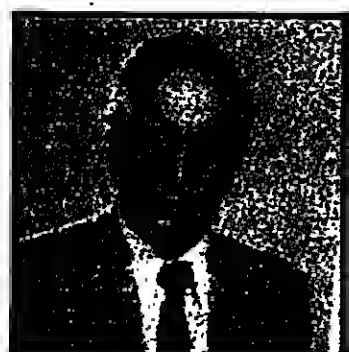
Once again I congratulate the Jordan Times staff and wish you and all your readers a happy anniversary. I also wish the Jordan Times continued progress and prosperity in its drive to reveal the facts and to serve the public.

Jordan, under His Majesty Mohammad Al Khatib

## From the director general of the Press and Publications Department

On the Jordan Times 10th anniversary, I am pleased to extend to you, your staff and to the Jordanian press and journalists my best wishes and to share with you this happy occasion.

The Jordan Times is an essential and important component of the Jordanian press which, over the past few years, has made significant strides and came a long way towards achieving technical and technological development in the field of news coverage. Indeed, Jordanian newspapers have now acquired a unique position in the world of Arab journalism, projecting Jordan's image and contributing effectively towards conveying Jordan's balanced policies and the country's firm stands towards Arab causes, particularly the Palestine issue. The local press also project Jordan's constant endeavours to achieve a just and honourable peace in the



Middle East region and to help the Palestinian people regain their legitimate rights in their own homeland.

I sincerely wish that Jordanian newspapers will continue their efforts towards achieving further progress in the world of advanced international communications and to serve as a candid voice for Jordan in international affairs.

Musa Keilani

TEN YEARS ago the Jordan Times came into being and it was a happy event for Jordan which had lacked an English language newspaper, much needed to relay the country's voice to the world.

The paper was and still is necessary for Jordanians and all the foreign community living in the country and for those in the world at large interested in the development of our region.

The Jordan Times now reaches the five continents and has become a main source of news and information for many Arab and foreign personalities, diplomats and journalists.

The idea of issuing an English-language newspaper is an old one and we, at the Jordan Press Foundation, came under pressure to publish such a daily

because of its potentially great benefits to Jordan. Before rethinking on this mission, we took all the necessary measures and came to an agreement with the concerned authorities to provide us with support and advice as we went along.

But it never occurred to us, in the board of directors, that the expected difficulties for which we braced ourselves would be far less than those we actually faced right from the start.

Our readership at the beginning was limited, but this was not the problem. We had to face the problem of finding the right and well-experienced people who could understand and absorb news and developments in our region and focus attention on Arab issues as well as regional and international issues, and to find the technicians who could print, proof-read, typeset and finally produce the newspaper on a daily basis.

It was clear that we could never get ready-made people from abroad to do the job and so we had to put up with all kinds of errors and mistakes in the initial stages. We came under pressure from the public to improve and to produce a better newspaper, and those who criticised the first issues never imagined the immense difficulties we were going through and the problems we had to overcome.

Nevertheless, a handful of Jordanians who joined us to work for the newspaper accepted the challenge and embarked on meaningful and serious efforts to improve it in partnership and cooperation with a number of their foreign colleagues. Through perseverance and diligence, this handful of Jordanians constituted the nucleus on which we could build and expand. And so we did, and moved ahead with confidence to transform the newspaper into a well-established institution capable of serving this country and living up to its aspirations and national affiliation under the country's wise leadership.

Of course, there is no limit for improvement, but I can say that after so many years of sweat and hard work, the Jordan Times has now become a well-established newspaper, reaching a wide range of readership not only in Jordan also in many countries of the world.

From my position, I could see great efforts and hard work being made by the staff of the newspaper in order to prepare a decent issue for the next day. Every story or piece of news reports in the paper is the fruit of tremendous efforts by the editors, translators, typesetters, montagists and proofreaders who spend all evenings preparing the paper for the readers. Yet, despite the sweat and the hard work, the staff of the Jordan Times feel happy because they are presenting to their readers a good newspaper, and each one of them takes a special delight and pride for being able to carry and build on the efforts and strides of the past 10 years.

I extend my deep appreciation and gratitude and

those of my colleagues to the staff of the Jordan Times and congratulations to them on their paper's 10th anniversary, wishing them many more happy occasions and further progress and achievements.



Juma'a Hammad

## Letter from the publisher

## From the President of the Jordan Press Association and Al Ra'i daily

To have an English language daily published in Jordan is no small feat because the newspaper fills such a big vacuum. Jordan had felt the gap for so long before the first issue of the Jordan Times in 1975, and the newspaper came to provide foreign readers in Jordan with information and news about the country and the world at large.

As Jordan forms a central point in the Middle East, foreign correspondents and diplomats have always eyed this country as a source of information and news. When the Jordan Press Association issued this newspaper back in 1975, it did so because it found it vital for the country and, through the surveys we conducted over the years, we found that our decision to have an English language newspaper was justified.

The Jordan Times has won respect and credibility through its wide and in-depth coverage of news and events in the Middle East region, and through the different editorials and views published in it every day.



From my position as editor-in-chief of Al Ra'i, and as president of the Jordan Press Association, I feel proud of the standard and the achievement of the Jordan Times. In my name and on behalf of the management and staff of Al Ra'i and all journalists in Jordan, I extend my heartiest congratulations to the Jordan Times staff and wish them further progress and success.

Mahmoud Al Kayed

## Letter from the editor

### A newspaper with a message

By George Hawatmeh

I WAS not here when on October 26, 1975, the zero number issue of the Jordan Times rolled off the Al Ra'i presses making history for the development of the press in modern Jordan; but today, on the tenth anniversary of the newspaper, I can imagine what a sense of achievement that must have been. No English-language daily has survived so long in Jordan and Palestine before, and certainly none has won the reputation and respect which the Jordan Times enjoys today.

The story of the newspaper is being told on these pages for the first time. We have no doubt that it is a success story. Nonetheless, we are fully aware that this is only the beginning and that we still have a long way to go.

During my three years as acting editor and editor, and the preceding 18 months when I worked first as a page editor, then managing editor, I have looked at the Jordan Times as an integral part of this country, carrying its message and sharing in its troubles and joys.

Both my colleagues and I have always shared and continue to share one common aim: an overriding concern to do the best possible in producing the newspaper for the following day. This is not to say that we have not had an eye to the future, but the time element, mainly the pressures of daily deadlines, has always taken its heavy toll. Merely to produce a decent issue was an achievement, or so we have thought, and the newspaper you now hold in your hands is but one tangible result of the tremendous and continuous effort that passes almost unnoticed by those who do not know what goes on behind the scenes at any newspaper.

We in the Jordan Times want only to produce a good, accurate, informative and stimulating newspaper. Naturally, the journalist in each of us is always seeking professional satisfaction, but our greatest sense of achievement comes when we manage to carry the real message of the newspaper: that is, to manage to give our readers the most accurate picture that we can of events in Jordan, the region and the world, on any particular day.

Our success or failure depends on a great number of factors, and even for a daily newspaper, the issue is not always black and white.

Our problems and, where they exist, achievements, are those of any newspaper anywhere in the world. We are both a function of the society we live in and a reflection of it. Where we deviate from this norm however, is at that point of meeting our international colleagues in aspirations and outlook.

On these pages you can read the story of each and every one of us at the newspaper, and get more than a glimpse of how we work and function. The picture will not be complete, however, unless you take into consideration the circumstances and conditions under which we operate and practise.

Jordan has been said by many to be the Switzerland of the Arab World. Some even believe the Kingdom should no longer be described as a Third World or developing country. Much as we value these opinions, we in the Jordan Times tread a fine line; not that everybody can see it, but it exists.

This country has indeed taken great strides towards achieving true and genuine development in many fields. In the last 10 years Jordan has progressed beyond recognition. But it is undeniable that the press here cannot operate as it does in Switzerland or the other developed countries. How then, at least from our angle as journalists, can we boast of full development when our press is nowhere near being the fourth estate of the realm as it should be?

The issue of the development of the press in Jordan is a controversial one at best. This may not be the time or the place to go into it, but there are certain things that can be said in this connection and they are, I think, worth mentioning. Upmost in my mind on this tenth anniversary of the Jordan Times is the role that the newspaper plays, or should play, in tandem with the other newspapers and the media generally in the Kingdom. The Jordanian press is an arm of the state and the Jordan Times is an integral part of the local press. We see ourselves exactly as the Arabic dai-

lies see themselves, and although this point may be misunderstood by some, it is nevertheless clear in our minds here at the paper.

According to the survey we conducted with a random segment of our readers, many believe that the Jordan Times has an edge on the Arabic dailies in that it enjoys a greater degree of freedom in publishing news reports and analysis. While this is largely true, our general impression is that whatever leeway we may have is not unjustifiable and we cannot push the limits unnoticed by the authorities.

Our readership alone should explain why our emphasis — not selection — and our angle on the news differ from that of the other papers. We are a daily newspaper and, as such, enjoy a newspaper's rights. It so happens that our opinions and priorities differ from those of our counterparts in the Arabic press.

Some of our Jordanian readers view the Jordan Times as a paper directed only at the foreign community in Jordan, with the main purpose of putting foreigners in touch with local and regional problems. That may well have been true when the paper first saw the light ten years ago, but there have certainly been some changes in the last decade.

Whatever leeway the Jordan Times may have over the Arabic press has encouraged more writers to use it as a vehicle for expressing their views. As a result, and in order to get more candid and critical views of events in the Kingdom, increasing numbers of Jordanians read the Jordan Times today. Additionally, many Jordanians, who have been educated abroad, turn to the Jordan Times for first-hand, unedited news from the original source. This question here is not one of sophistication, but rather of relaying news in its original format and language, without the inevitable changes incurred by editing and translation.

This important sector of Jordanians is increasingly reading the Jordan Times and is a major stimulus for us, prompting the paper to keep continuously

adapting and developing its outlook and approach.

It can no longer be said that the Jordan Times is a newspaper for a minority group of foreigners. Rather, it is an English-language newspaper published in Jordan, with Jordanian concerns at heart. While some people object to its candid views, on the grounds that by exposing our problems to foreigners we only harm the country, this is an extremely narrow view and one with which we cannot concur.

It is right that Jordanian writers should discuss Jordanian problems and share them with Jordanian and other readers. For if we cannot admit to our faults, difficulties and problems, how can we hope to deal with them? If it is regrettable that they should write in English, rather than in Arabic, it is also understandable if it is their only means of conveying their views.

It is with this in mind that we see the role of the Jordan Times not as one of presenting a silhouette of the pleasant side of life in Jordan, but as a mirror, reflecting the true image of all aspects of life in the Kingdom.

We, as Jordanians, have nothing to be ashamed of and nothing to hide about life in this country. It has its good and its bad sides, as anywhere else.

As we report on and analyse both in the Jordan Times, we do so in the full knowledge that only by being true to ourselves can we hope to strengthen and advance our friendship with and understanding of the rest of the nations of the world and their representatives and countrymen living in or visiting this country — and vice versa.

The most interesting and exciting aspect of being an editor is that one is given the opportunity to see the overall picture before passing judgement and approving the content and appearance of the newspaper.

Celebrating and sharing the happy occasion of the Jordan Times tenth anniversary with all our readers has been a wonderful experience. My colleagues and I pledge every effort to keep the Jordan Times the useful source of information we hope it is for you, and to improve it wherever possible.

## Arab-African ties through ADB

LOME, (U.P.) — Arab countries have decided to set up dynamic and solid Arab-African cooperation through the Arab Development Bank, bank development Chadly Agha said here. Mr. Agha, now on a tour of several African countries, arrived in Lome, Togo from Abidjan on Saturday.

## JORDAN TIMES

الجزيرة العربية، الشرق الأوسط، أفريقيا، آسيا، أستراليا، نيوزيلندا، أمريكا الشمالية، أمريكا الجنوبية، أوروبا، الشرق الأوسط، أفريقيا، آسيا، أستراليا، نيوزيلندا، أمريكا الشمالية، أمريكا الجنوبية، أوروبا

## Jordan Chief of Staff back from Syria

AMMAN, (U.P.) — The Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Zaid al-Rifai, who was on a two-day visit to Syria, returned to Amman on Saturday. He held talks with the Syrian Chief of Staff, General Hafez al-Assad, and the Syrian Minister of Defense, General Hafez al-Assad.



His Majesty King Hussein II received at the royal court yesterday the Syrian Chief of Staff

## Crown Prince Hassan in exclusive interview 5-year plan more ambitious than 1972-75 uplift plan

By MAX S. FREEMAN  
The Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, in an exclusive interview for the JORDAN TIMES, said that the five-year economic and social development plan (1977-1982) "has been more ambitious than the 1972-75 uplift plan." He said that the plan "has been more ambitious than the 1972-75 uplift plan" and that it "has been more ambitious than the 1972-75 uplift plan." He said that the plan "has been more ambitious than the 1972-75 uplift plan" and that it "has been more ambitious than the 1972-75 uplift plan."



His Majesty King Hussein II received at the royal court yesterday the Syrian Chief of Staff

## Assad discusses with Rifai political situation in Middle East

DAMASCUS, — Syrian President Hafez al-Assad has discussed with Jordanian Chief of Staff Zaid al-Rifai the political situation in the Middle East. The two leaders held talks on Saturday in Damascus. Assad discussed with Rifai the political situation in the Middle East, the situation in Jordan, and the situation in the Arab world. Rifai discussed with Assad the political situation in the Middle East, the situation in Jordan, and the situation in the Arab world.



His Majesty King Hussein II received at the royal court yesterday the Syrian Chief of Staff

## Laraki in Mauritania with King's message for Daddah

NOUAKCHOTT, Mauritania, — Moroccan Foreign Minister Ahmed Laraki arrived here yesterday on a two-day visit to Mauritania. Laraki is carrying a message from King Hussein II of Jordan to Mauritania's President, Mokhtar Daddah. Laraki is also carrying a message from the King to the people of Mauritania.



His Majesty King Hussein II received at the royal court yesterday the Syrian Chief of Staff



Jordan Times editors and reporters pose for their tenth anniversary. Zero Number issue appeared on October 26, 1975





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# The story of the evolution of the Jordan Times

By P.V. Vivekanand

IT WOULD have sounded like a joke for some when the Jordan Press Foundation (JPF) announced in 1975 that a new English-language daily was taking birth in Jordan, but few would have expected the newspaper to grow into one of the most respected English language publications in the Arab World.

It could be said, though in a limited sense, that the Jordan Times owes its origins to the Lebanese civil war in 1975. The Beirut-based Daily Star was the main source of information for foreign readers in Jordan until the Lebanese conflict blocked its flow to the Kingdom. As the conflict dragged on, with no signs of subsiding, a sense of urgency prevailed among Jordanians for an Arab-language English language daily.

The Jordan Press Foundation, which took the initiative and the risks of uncertain prospects, recalls that there was also an evident government encouragement for the venture.

"We've never looked back or regretted our decision to launch the newspaper," says the foundation's director-general, Mr. Jumma Hammad. "We faced quite a number of thorny problems in the beginning to come out with a decent, respectable publication. But such problems never deterred us from pursuing our goal."

One of the major problems that faced the foundation was the lack of "proper, experienced personnel," according to Mr. Hammad. "We had to search continuously for skilled people who understood what we aimed to achieve through the newspaper," he says. "Of course we had Rami Khouri and Maaz Shukayr, but two men could not have shouldered the entire burden."

It was Mr. Shukayr who undertook the launching of the newspaper after taking a two-month leave from his regular job as programme director of Radio Jordan.

Mr. Shukayr recalls that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan was one of the firm supporters of the newspaper. The Crown Prince visited the Jordan Press Foundation immediately before the launching of the newspaper and reviewed the goals of the daily and what was expected of it. The Crown Prince also granted an interview, his first-ever to a newspaper inside or outside Jordan, which the Jordan Times carried as its lead story on its first edition.

Mr. Shukayr, who had worked for the 1966 Jerusalem-based Jerusalem Star and later for Palestine News, gave two months of dedicated work and set the paper in motion. He shared his work with "Durani," a Pakistani journalist whose full name no-one seems to remember.

Mr. Shukayr went back to his regular job and Mr. Khouri, who had worked for Lebanon's Daily Star for some time, took over from him.

"We were in dire need of people who were comfortable with the English language... proofreaders, typesetters as well as sub-editors," Mr. Hammad recalls. "In those days it was really difficult to find such people in Jordan."

"We are happy now that we have quite a good number of highly commendable professionals working for us... of course it does not mean we feel that the standard of the newspaper could not be raised still more... but it is a continuous process," Mr. Hammad adds.

The first English-language newspaper to appear in the Kingdom was the Jerusalem Star in 1966. It appeared for exactly one year — Jan. 1, 1966 to Dec. 31, 1966. The editor of the newspaper was Mr. Raja Elissa who is now the deputy director-general of the Jordan Press Foundation and director-general of the Jordan Distribution Agency. Mr. Elissa explains that a combination of factors, finances included, forced the closure of the Star and the next English-language newspaper in Jordan was Palestine News, which appeared for just one month, immediately prior to the 1967 war.

When the Jordan Times came out in 1975, it was eagerly welcomed by the foreign community and diplomats in Jordan," says Mr. Elissa. "It was a national necessity and the readership gradually increased as the quality of the newspaper continued to improve," adds Mr. Elissa, who should know more about the circulation of the newspaper than anyone else, for his agency is in charge of distributing it, except for direct subscribers. Approximately 9,000 copies are handled by the Jordan Distribution Agency staff every day.

"As an ardent reader of the newspaper myself, I would

say that the Jordan Times has taken its rightful place beside any other English-language daily in the Arab World," says Mr. Elissa. "From an international point of view, some may find that Gulf newspapers have much more extensive coverage of international news, but one also has to remember that there are large numbers of foreigners living in the Gulf and English newspapers in the region have to tune themselves accordingly."

According to Mr. Hammad, some ministries promised to buy a few thousand copies of the Jordan Times in the beginning as an encouragement to the newspaper. But the practice was short-lived. "In about three months, we found out that we would be better off without it, when we discovered that most of the copies we sold to the ministries en masse were finding their way back to the market," Mr. Hammad says. "From there on, we launched an aggressive distribution campaign and it was not before another one year that the Jordan Distribution Agency came into the picture."

The distribution of the newspaper aside, the production of the newspaper is a story in itself. "It was chaotic," admits Mr. Khouri, who took over as chief editor in December 1975. "First of all there were no full-time personnel working at the newspaper. Everyone used to come in, look at the news, edit whatever was found suitable and send it down for typesetting, without coordination. In the evening, Durani used to come in, look at the typeset news and start allocating the items to the various pages. In certain instances, oversight caused the same items to appear in two pages."

"In such a situation, the priority for me was to put some order into the affair," continues Mr. Khouri. "It took sometime before order was established and some kind of a steady coordination between sub-editors, translators, proofreaders and typesetters was established."

In effect, the same pattern, which should be the backbone of any newspaper, is continuing today. The major difference is that computers have replaced the time-consuming manual typesetting.

"In fact, we had acquired the computer system in 1976, but the lack of qualified personnel to run it was the problem," says Mr. Hammad. "So, we had to

*'Today, what happened then is history... we have gone on to become an important source for political news in Jordan and the area.'*



A group photo of editors and reporters of the Jordan Times with the Director General of the Jordan Press Foundation, Mr. Jumma Hammad in his office at the Jordan Times building.

continue manual typesetting for about another one year before we trained people to operate the new system and introduced it in the production process of the Jordan Times."

Now that most of the "teething problems" of the newspaper were taken care of, the attention was shifted to the quality of news and its presentation. "It was a joint effort by everyone concerned," says Mr. Khouri, who left the Jordan Times in 1977 to set up the Syrian Times in Damascus. After Mr. Khouri left, Mr. Janab Tutunji, a budding Jordanian writer and a member of the editorial staff, was at the helm until 1978 when William F. Lee, an experienced American journalist took over. Mr. Lee, who oversaw the increase in the number of pages of the newspaper from six to eight, left in 1981 and Mr. Khouri returned to the newspaper to run it for another two years. In between, Mr. Shukayr returned in 1979 to serve as managing editor for three years.

Most of the staff expected Mr. Khouri to continue to run the newspaper, and it came as a surprise when he announced in 1982 that his engagements with writing a book were too pressing. Much more surprising

then was the announcement that George Hawatmeh, a nuclear engineer with less than 18 months in journalism, was taking over.

Sceptical as the staff were over what Mr. Hawatmeh could accomplish, considering his relatively young age and inexperience, more surprises awaited them when it rapidly emerged that he was determined to introduce his own dynamism to the newspaper. Ignoring complaints that he was "too much of a perfectionist," Mr. Hawatmeh introduced sweeping changes in style, layout and news allocation. He is continuing to do so even today, but most staff admit that his experiments, more often than not, have proved successful.

Perhaps the most outstanding change that the newspaper underwent under the stewardship of Mr. Hawatmeh was the introduction of in-depth political reporting by staff reporters. But he admits that there would have been no chance of this happening had it not been for the momentous events that followed the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the subsequent rapprochement between the PLO and Jordan.

"The Reagan initiative of 1982, and the presence and

visits of top PLO officials here to discuss it gave us the right break to cover the issue in depth," Mr. Hawatmeh says. "All of a sudden, everything was happening across the street from us, and we had to seize the initiative," he adds reluctantly.

"Today, the story of what happened then is history. I think from then on we have gone to become an important source for political events in Jordan and the area. The Jordan Times' inexperienced, but politically-minded reporters of that time are now good enough to be international newspapers' correspondents in Jordan," says Mr. Hawatmeh.

With a closer look at the system that prevails within the newspaper, one could find that there have been major changes in the entire set-up, right from selection of news, editing, styles, headlines, photographs, etc., to contents and presentation and even members of the staff.

More attention is now given to local issues and regional developments, since according to Mr. Hawatmeh, "the newspaper has to live up to its name."

"Above and beyond everything, it is a Jordanian

newspaper and our focus should be on what is happening within this country, then onto pan-Arab Arab issues and developments in the international arena that concern us most," Mr. Hawatmeh insists. "That should explain to our readers why our emphasis is often different from those of other local and international newspapers."

"Of course, we don't ignore issues of international concern and developments in other areas of the world, but they have come second only to our own important issues in Jordan and the Arab World," he says. "The world says one word about us, we say ten."

The main source of news for the Jordan Times are the Reuters and Associated Press agencies for international events. The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, for local news. Most recently, the Qatari News Agency and the Palestinian News Agency (Wafa) have been subscribed to by the Jordan Times to strengthen coverage of Arab events.

The newspaper does not have a photographer of its own but shares with its sister paper Al Rai the renowned Jordanian photographer Yusef Al Allan. The Associated Press provides wirephotos covering daily events and for local photographs the newspaper relies on Petra, in addition to the staff. The Jordan Press Foundation is currently negotiating with the Reuters news agency for its new photo service, and an agreement on the subject may be reached soon.

About 30 people, including sub-editors, translators, typesetters, proofreaders and montagists work for the Jordan Times now, compared with seven in 1975. In addition about 15 freelance reporters and writers, including columnists, contribute regular reports and articles. Features come from the London-based Financial Times and Earthscan, the U.S. National Geographic Society and various other syndicates and agencies around the world. A major contributor of news from the U.S. is the U.S. Information Agency (USIA), which gives direct reports from the State Department and the White House. The Jordan Times also makes it a point to reprint articles appearing in other international newspapers, depending on their usefulness to readers.

The Jordan Times lacks a regular cartoonist, but makes use of cartoons appearing in other newspapers, mainly by Mahmoud Kahil whose famous cartoons appear in Saudi and international publications.

One of the regular elements of pride for the newspaper is when its reports are quoted by international news agencies. This happens very regularly, especially when the topic concerned is the Middle East conflict and the Palestinian problem in particular.

In another aspect of the paper's usefulness, Mr. Hawatmeh recalls an episode of human interest when in 1983 the Jordan Times reported the tragedy that struck a motorcyclist from Belgium, when his much-valued motorcycle was stolen during a stop-over in Amman. It came as surprise and pride for the newspaper to report a week later that His Majesty King Hussein, noting the Jordan Times report, understood the Belgian's plight and presented him with a brand new motorcycle to replace the stolen one. The Belgian continued his round-the-world trip on his new vehicle and another surprise was waiting for him: his stolen bike was recovered by police in Amman soon afterwards and the authorities arranged to send it to Belgium.

One of Mr. Hawatmeh's immediate goals, he says, is to expand the newspaper, and the 32-year-old British-educated bachelor appears to be pushing hard to achieve that goal.

Apart from serving as a useful daily, the Jordan Times has always been a "training ground" for Jordanian journalists. Quite a good number of Jordanian journalists who now work with international media are Jordan Times "graduates."

"The tendency to train at the Jordan Times only to leave it later for other better-paid jobs has hopefully been reversed," Mr. Hawatmeh says. "Our staff are now staying to work for the newspaper partly because it has become more prestigious and satisfying to be on the staff of the Jordan Times and partly because the salaries we pay our staff have greatly improved," Mr. Hawatmeh adds. "Some editors and reporters are now happy and content to be writing for very prestigious publications in the West, while they occupy their jobs here. For most of them, it is much more fun and useful that way."

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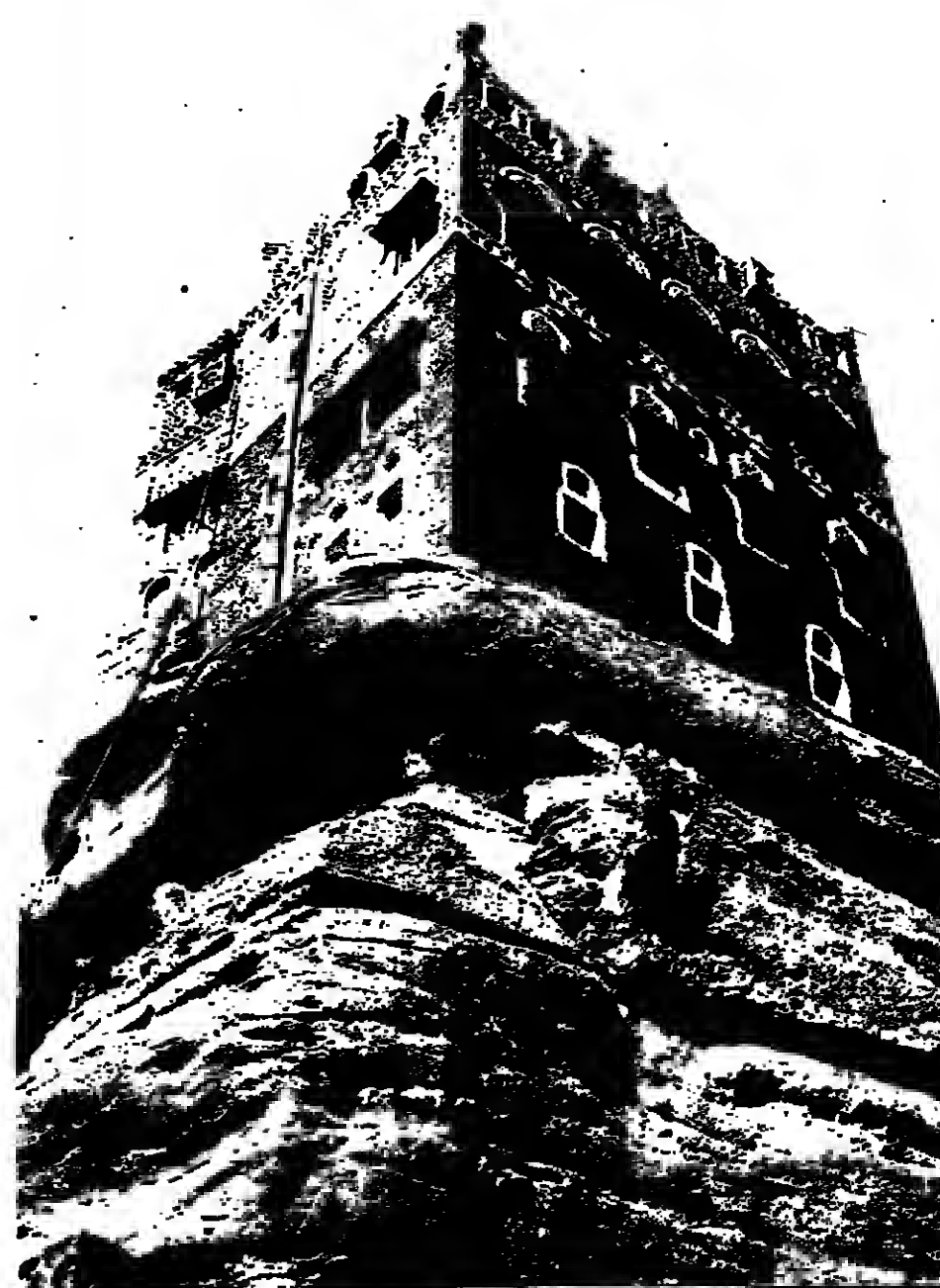
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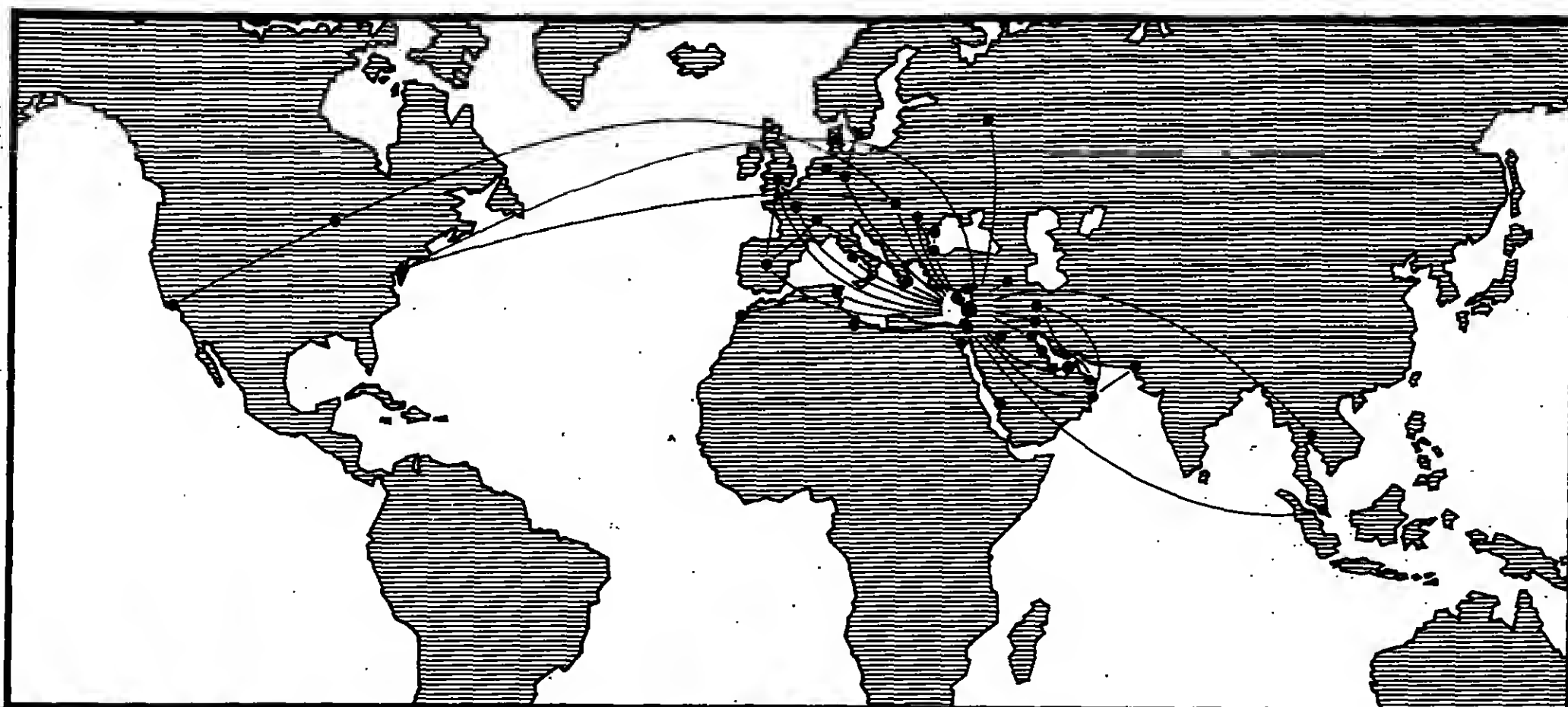


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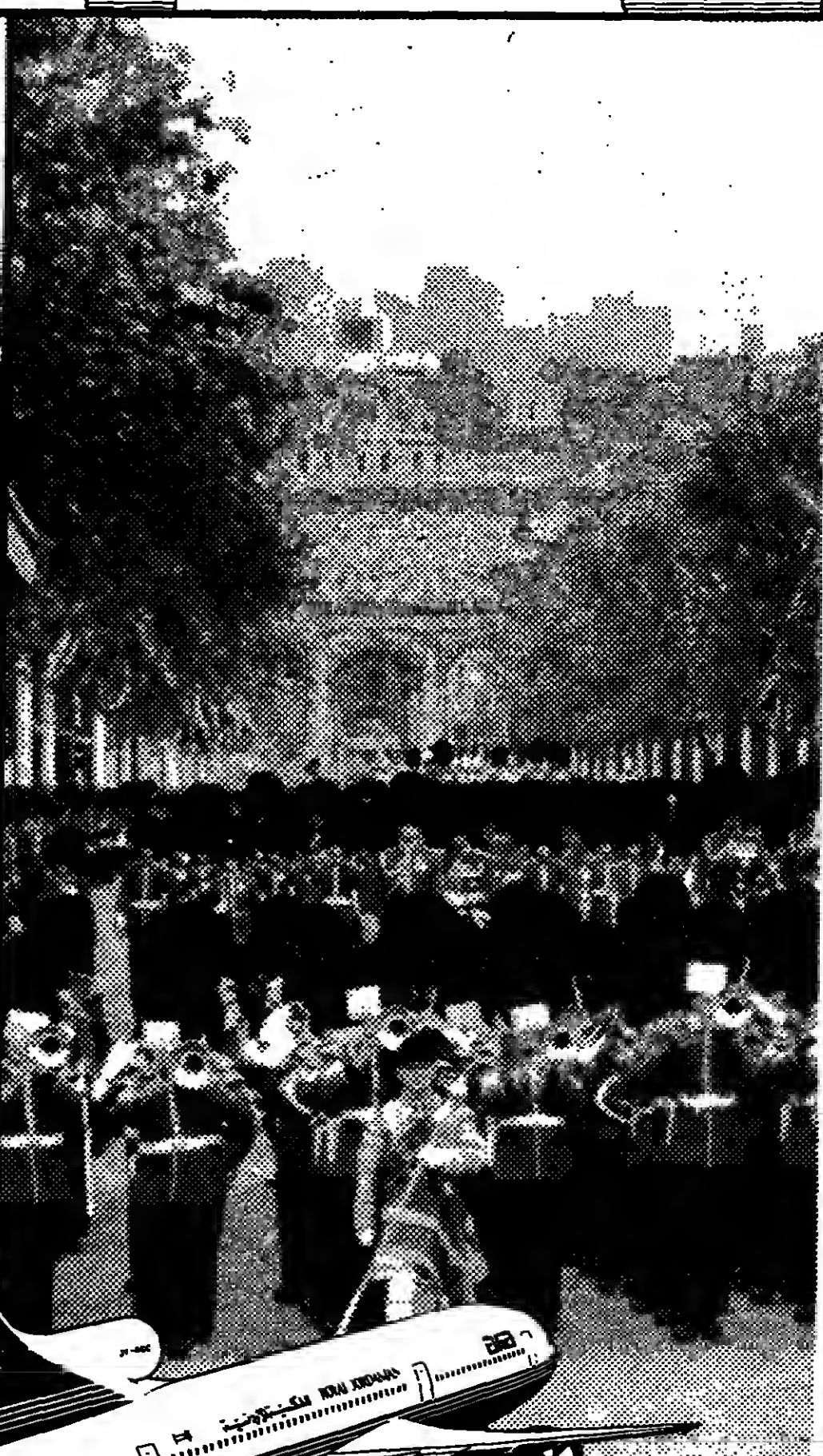
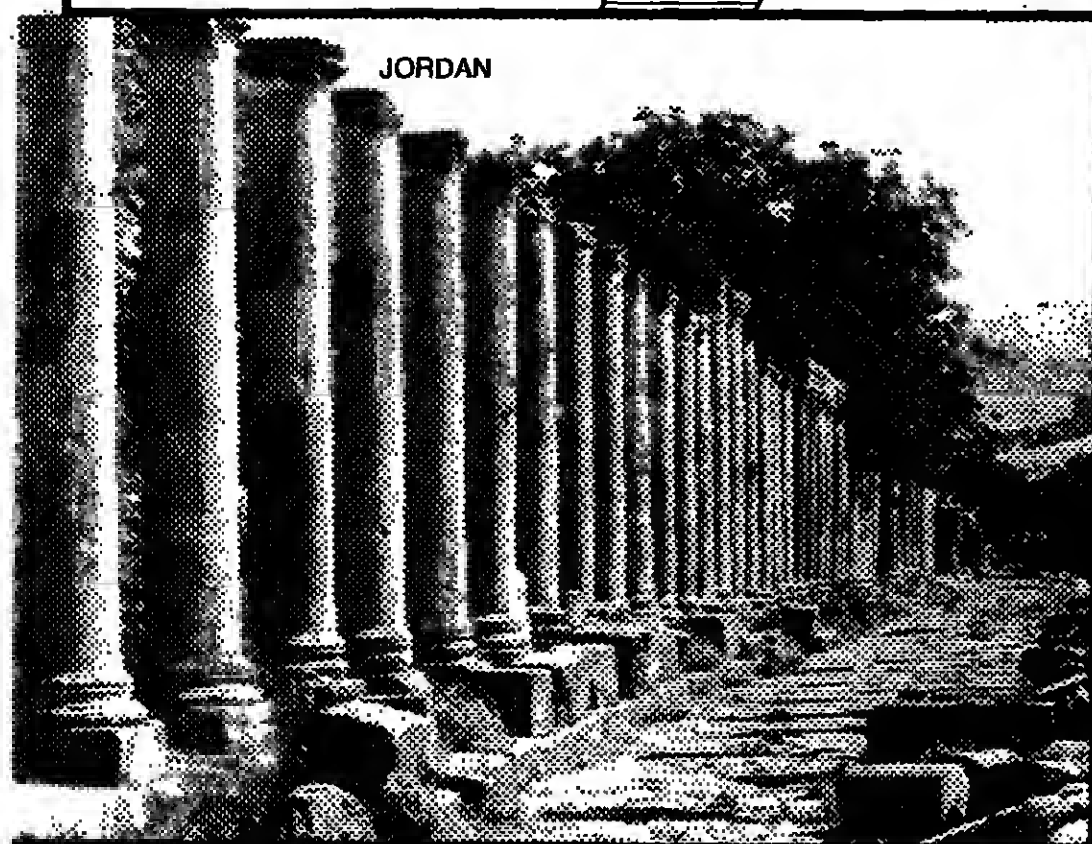
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## A day in the life of the Jordan Times

By Ara Voskian  
and Lamis K. Andoni

LOOKING at the eight pages of the Jordan Times and the amount of news they include, any interested reader will realise that apart from the events that concern Jordan and the Middle East, only events of major importance around the world are highlighted in our daily issues.

While the Jordan Times wishes to cover more extensively all issues and events around the world, whether they are major or minor ones, it also has its limitations in terms of priorities and shortage of space, funds and manpower.

On any given day, the amount of news received by the newspaper, whether political or otherwise, can easily fill at least 16 news pages. This is apart from the news analyses, commentaries, features and columns received from columnists, freelance writers and reporters and the news agencies, which would easily fill another six to eight pages.

Twenty full pages of news and related items would definitely cover a bigger variety of political and non-political events around the world. Why then is the Jordan Times only eight pages? To have more pages we need to have a bigger circulation and a larger amount of advertising to finance a bigger staff. At the moment the Jordan Times boasts of over 20,000 readers and we believe this is not bad for an English language daily in a small, Arabic-speaking country like Jordan. But at the same time, it is not a truly big readership either, and we continue to try to do our best to reach the largest number of people in Jordan and abroad.

Until a decision to expand the newspaper is taken, we cannot but confine ourselves to the eight pages we have, and by doing that we have to sacrifice a lot of world news in order to accommodate the local and regional issues that have the most impact on our lives in this part of the world.

With this in mind, news on and related to Jordan and the Middle East will continue to get the lion's share of our coverage, three out of the eight pages of the newspaper. This will leave us with only five pages to cover world news, economy, sports, news analysis, features, editorials, puzzles, cartoons and other non-political material. Of course there are times when there is so much regional news that things like Chilean protests, Argentine Junta trials and rebel attacks in the Philippines are left out since those events, important as they may be, do not have a great impact on our region.

When we receive over 25 major non-regional news items in one day, it is very difficult to squeeze more than 12 on the one page that is allocated for them. Therefore, after choosing the most important ones a lot of the news ends up being unused, but not without duty taking note of them, in the expectation that at least new developments on those subjects will be reported the next day or afterwards.

### Editorial policy

The selection of news items and their presentation is not only determined by the size of the newspaper. Selection of the news is a complicated and difficult task which is inextricably linked to the editorial policy of the newspaper and other constraints.

As an English-language Jordanian newspaper, the editorial board believes that the Jordan Times has a national duty to convey the Arab view on the regions' major problems, particularly the Palestinian question.

The Jordan Times is basically a committed newspaper in the sense that it believes in the justice of Arab causes and in the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. This commitment implies, on the practical level, giving enough space and priority to reports and articles which explain the Palestinian problem and which provide insight to the Arab argument in defence of Palestinian rights.

It could be argued, of course, that objectivity and a self-professed commitment to one side cannot go together. But in the Jordan Times, it has been a policy of the editorial board to carry factual and well-founded reports or opinions. Consequently the editorial staff are faced with the seemingly contradictory task of presenting an objective coverage of the news in the Middle East, particularly news pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict, but at the same time giving coverage that serves the newspaper's goal as defender of Arab rights against Israeli aggression. In order to

do that, news that exposes Israeli malpractices and plans to annex Arab territories and items which explain the Arab view point are highlighted.

To maintain the newspaper's objectivity, the news coverage sticks to a factual narration of events without using adjectives or labels, unless they are attributed, to describe the Israeli practices.

In other words editorialising is not allowed in news reporting and coverage and the editors are very strict over this point, particularly when it comes to staff reporters' stories. It is left for the editorials and commentaries to explain the Arab interpretation and the newspaper's position on the news.

The selection and presentation of international news items are also a reflection of the editorial policy. To start with, the newspaper tries to cater for the tastes and interests of its readers, who represent many nationalities.

The newspaper's dependence on news agencies might not, as some argue, provide coverage of "all sides of the story", particularly in issues pertaining to developing countries. To make up for our dependence on news agencies for international news coverage, the Jordan Times reprints reports from specialised magazines and publish other syndicated features, such as the Financial Times features which provide a more in-depth insight into problems faced by developing countries.

### Bad news

For those of our readers who say that all our news is "bad news" meaning tragic events, political statements and so on, well, there is page eight's column 8 news which give the lighter side of events happening in the world that day.

It is worth noting that given a larger space, column 8 could be expanded first to two columns, maybe even to three or four at a later stage, but we must not also forget that, in the absence of the called-for new world information order, the more positive, and the more light-hearted news will still be difficult to come by and also make an impact. Until then, we regret to say that the "bad news" will continue to dominate in the world press as a whole.

Our newspaper has several sources through which we receive our news. Apart from our four staff reporters and eight freelance reporters, the Jordan Times receives dispatches from Reuters, (English), the Associated Press (English), the Palestinian News Agency (W-AFA) (Arabic), the Qatari News Agency (QNA) (Arabic) and Patre, the Jordanian News Agency (Arabic).

It is through all these sources that the Jordan Times is kept informed of all events taking place around the world.

The eight pages of the Jordan Times are divided into two page groups which we call the "early pages" and the "late pages". The early pages include the editorials, pages 4 and 5, where we have the editorials, features, columns and news analysis. Economy, Middle East and world news which are on pages 7, 2 and 8 respectively are supporting pages to page 1 and therefore are prepared prior to their 8 p.m. deadline. Two of the "late pages" sports and home news are prepared before the 10 p.m. deadline as a lot of events take place in the evenings such as cabinet meetings and late government statements, which are found on the home news page, and the results of games played late in the evening in different countries on the sports page.

The front page, which is the last page to go for print, has a tentative deadline of 11 p.m. which is often extended according to the cycle of different important regional events which are highlighted on the lead page. For example, the deadline is definitely extended when a hijacked plane is still in mid-air, even though we might already know what that hijacked plane's destination is.

On some occasions, such as when the Palestine National Council met in Amman last year, reports were still being written at well-past midnight so that all the statements and developments at the evening meetings were covered before the next session began.

Despite all kinds of difficulties, the Jordan Times has never failed to reach its readers six days a week for the past 10 years. Even though the issues which come off the presses may not contain everything that readers may want to see, we are trying to give as much coverage as we can with our limitations.



Editor's consultations ...



News coming in ...



Our receptionist ...



Archives ...



... The paper takes shape

## The view from the production room

By C.V. Mohan  
Jordan Times Production Manager

The Jordan Times is a small newspaper — with only eight pages — but we take a certain measure of pride in our ability to cover almost every important local, Middle East, and international news story. We also do our best to maintain the high quality of our newspaper, layout, photographs, and feature cartoons; these compare favourably with any other newspaper produced in the Middle East.

There is always room for improvement, however, and we do make mistakes. But we work very hard to achieve technical perfection, and are proud to say of the Jordan Times, "today is better than yesterday."

In order to maintain and improve the standards of the Jordan Times, we put in a lot of effort every day, the entire staff, from top to bottom. The secret behind our success and improvement is the good cooperation and coordination among our staff members. To give you some idea of the pressures and problems and headaches and hazards involved in newspaper production, consider this view from the production room on a typical day at the Jordan Times:

Before I step into my office with a feeling that "today's Jordan Times is better than yesterday's," the office boy is waiting with the message that the "chief" wants to see me before I start working. I enter the office of the chief, greeting him with a broad smile. He lifts up a Marlboro, and says "take your seat please," as usual. By the time I turn to the newspaper to look for mistakes, he asks, "what time did you finish the newspaper last night?"

"Around 12:40 p.m.," I replied. "Look! gentlemen, we are late, the newspaper did not reach Aqaba today; the management will not allow this to continue; you have to find a solution to finish early."

"By the way, did you look at today's newspaper? What a shame! The spacing of headlines on page two is awful. It looks like one word. Look at the story on page three on the art exhibition. It is only a two-day exhibition, but it appeared as a 20-day exhibition in our newspaper. Is there a good reason for this?"

Now look at page one, the continuation referred to page three, it should have been page five instead of page three. Have a glance at the story on page four (top right); it is little bit outdated, don't you think? See column eight second story from bottom, the headline is vague, and the story on page five (bottom left) does not have a source; where does it come from? One of the page seven stories ends without a full stop and in a page six headline the word "towards" should have been "towards." I have already spoken to

the editors, but double check these things, and leave no room for our readers to laugh at us," he concludes for the day.

I return to my desk to note that the artists (montageurs) are sitting idle. I enquire mildly. "What is the matter, my friends, you have nothing to do?"

"Sorry, we did not get anything from proofreading section, and pages four and five are not yet here." I get in touch with the proofreaders and the computer operators to learn that the computer (VIP) machine is in trouble since 3 p.m., and that the service engineer is yet to arrive at 8:30 p.m. Finally, thank God, the engineer repairs the machine and the stories start to come.

At 9:30 p.m. the page three editor comes with the page saying "sorry I am late," and "I have to rush to feed my baby; there will not be any problem today; I have sent down two extra stories in case you need them. The picture on the top is definitely coming from Petra; please do a caption and send the picture in three columns."

At 9:50, the editor pays a quick visit to the montage room and changes a few headlines, gives some directives, and leaves the scene. At 10:30, the editor calls from his home asking "Do you have my editorial there? I want to make minor changes in the first paragraph because of some new development in the Middle East situation."

It is already 11 o'clock, and I am wondering where page one is. "I can't help it," the editor says, "we have an important local story which one of our reporters is just now writing."

## A reporter's side of the story

By Rana Sabbagh

PERSEVERANCE, iron nerves and limitless hope are, or should be, the stock-in-trade of an average Jordanian reporter. When he or she is trying to extract the right information from the right source(s), especially if they are ministers and senior officials of the government, and more so if the subject concerns any political development or a heated socio-economic issue, these are the essential qualities for a reporter.

While there seems to be a consensus among government officials and journalists, and the public generally, that the situation for local journalists is difficult, there is a controversy over the reasons behind the "information gap" between Jordanian officials and local reporters.

Ministry of Information officials, among others in government, blame the local press itself for "failing to prove its efficiency and consequently failing to build confidence among journalists and government officials." Journalists, on the other hand, strongly believe that the existing press and publication law and inaccessibility to government officials have been the main factors impeding the progress and development of the Jordanian press.

The main argument as voiced by officials of the Information Ministry is that the "lack of specialisations in the local press" and the inability of some local journalists to "properly approach" the concerned officials have discouraged government officials from working closely with local reporters.

This president of the Jordan Press Association (JPA), Mahmoud Al Kayed, does not agree with. He lays the blame for the problems faced by the local journalists in doing their job on the Press and Publication Law of 1973, which, he says, has limited the role played by the press and consequently has affected the work and the efficiency of local journalists.

### Disillusionment, frustration

In general, not only government officials and the public, but also the journalists themselves, are disillusioned and disappointed by the role and restricted power of the local press. The journalists feel res-

tricted and inhibited by the press law and by the "limited freedom" it affords them.

Feelings of frustration are deepened by what the local journalists view as a clear discrimination by government officials between correspondents of local newspapers and those of foreign newspapers and agencies, even including the Jordanians who work for the latter.

The Jordanians argue that they could do a much better job than the daily routine of "superficial reporting" if they are given the government's support and confidence, in the presence of stronger public appreciation and respect for their work.

But the way things stand now, many journalists feel that the role of the press in Jordan has in many cases been reduced to a sort of public relations job, where a reporter should be, or is forced to be, cautious not to reveal what might offend government officials or certain heads of departments.

As a direct result, many good reporters find themselves compelled to leave the local press and join either Arab or international media organisations, where they feel appreciated and respected, instead of staying with the local press and waiting for the situation to improve.

Abdullah Al Utoum, a veteran journalist who is currently a senior reporter at the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, describes his job as "two thirds public relations."

"This implies that we are only permitted to report on the good achievements of the concerned institution and official," Mr. Utoum says. "Because we are not allowed to point out both the negative and positive aspects of any important development, we could be misleading public opinion."

Lamis Andoni, of the Jordan Times, agrees on this point: "The press is supposed to enlighten people, and it won't do its job if it cannot expose all faces of the argument to the public," she says.

Caroline Faraji, a reporter for the Arabic daily Sawt Al Shaab, says officials believe that "local reporters should be avoided since they are a source of scandals."

There is a consensus among reporters that there are many and diverse blocks hindering

them from covering the various socio-economic and political developments in a more frank and open manner instead of following the traditional coverage stressing only the bright side of developments.

### Stumbling blocks

According to the interviewees, the major stumbling blocks in the life and the role of a reporter are: a limited framework of freedom of expression and thought, the 1973 Press and Publication Law, the stereotyping of local reporters by concerned private and public spokesmen, the "obvious discrimination" between local and foreign reporters, the absence of job assurances and lack of insurance against occupational risks.

The 1973 Press and Publication Law includes provisions which allow the authorities to order the permanent or partial closure of any newspaper without giving any reason. It also provides for imposing fines on the newspaper and for withholding the newspaper's publishing licence without giving any reason. The law also prohibits the newspaper from appealing to the court.

Mr. Kayed says that amendments to the 1973 law, suggested by the JPA, are expected to be debated during Parliament's third ordinary session which starts on Nov. 2. He says these amendments might provide a partial solution in trying to upgrade the status of journalism in the country. "The major amendment we hope would be endorsed is replacing collective punishment, (the different forms of newspaper closure) by individual punishment, since we believe that the newspaper should not suffer for the fault of a person," Mr. Kayed explains.

### Censorship

Mr. Utoum and Mr. Youssef Al Absi, who is a senior reporter at Al Fa'i, believe that the 1973 law has pressured the media to work within "moderate limits" regarding freedom of expression. However, Mr. Absi believes that the freedom of press in Jordan is much better than in many other Arab countries.

Continued on page 15

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# Readers express their opinions on the Jordan Times...

*'Political news coverage is good and often in-depth, more analyses, commentaries on current affairs would be appreciated...'*

Following are comments and views on the Jordan Times expressed by a cross-section of the newspaper's readership. All our readers are important and we appreciate every compliment, suggestion and idea for improvement which we received but, due to limited space, only a small segment of our readers' opinions could be printed.

## Senior government officials, ministers

**Mr. Ahmad Al Lawzi**, speaker of the Upper House of the Parliament and former prime minister and chief of the Royal Court: I read the Jordan Times often and I think it is a good newspaper which fills a gap in covering national and international events for the foreign community and the diplomatic corps in Jordan. Its news coverage is always up to date and reliable and its reports, editorials and articles often catch the attention of the reader and become the subject of discussion by diplomats and politicians in the country.

**Dr. Hazem Nuseibeh**, minister of state for Prime Ministry Affairs: I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Jordan Times on its 10th anniversary. I have been a regular reader of the Jordan Times over the years. Being an old hand in journalism, in my younger days, I cannot but express my deep appreciation for the high quality of journalism which has constantly characterised the Jordan Times, not only as a source of credible information, professionally and wisely selected, but also for the wisdom and acumen of its editorial staff. I am also impressed by the editorials on local and national as well as international events. It is all the more important that in a country like Jordan, where there is a substantial number of non-Arabic speaking people, there should be available, every morning a newspaper which foreigners can trust and from which they can put their pulse on the thoughts, trends and orientations of the host country in which they live.

I have no doubt in my mind that its existence has filled a deeply-felt vacuum in Jordan's mass communication, not only with its guests but also with the rest of the world. Naturally enough the Jordan Times does not have the mass readership or the ready availability of information which characterises daily papers in larger countries. But for Jordan's size and needs it has carried on its message with flying colours. Many happy returns of the day.

**Dr. Sami Joudah**, minister for parliamentary affairs: The Jordan Times is a very informative newspaper and it has come a long way since its establishment in 1975. I would like to see an increase in the number of pages bringing with it a wider selection of world news and events. As far as local news, the Jordan Times covers a wide range of daily events and activities in the Kingdom. I wish the Jordan Times continued success.

**Dr. Rajal Muasher**, minister of industry, trade and supply: What makes the Jordan Times stand out to me is its ability to attract the young and daring Jordanians. It is refreshing to see that it is an outlet for our youth to express their opinion candidly and yet properly presented in a positive way of bringing to attention the issues of the day. I am also proud to note the achievements of the Jordan Times during its relatively short 10 years. The pace at which its Jordanian readership base is increasing is something I did not expect.

**Mr. Khalid Haj Hassan**, Minister of Labour and Social Development: As a Jordanian citizen, I am really proud of the Jordan Times' coverage, especially in tackling issues candidly, frankly and with great objectivity. I wish the newspaper all success since it provides its readers with the important news summaries which are printed in the local Arabic dailies. It is also a great source of information to foreign people living in Jordan, especially as it covers all news comprehensively. Jordanians and foreigners can also obtain all recent political developments in the area, either through the printed news or through the numerous editorials which the newspaper publishes.

**Mr. Ali Bashir**, Amman Governor: A good newspaper with excellent coverage. I wish the Jordan Times further development and progress.

**Mr. Mahmoud Al Hawamdeh**, minister of public works: The newspaper has gained an excellent and credible reputation in Jordan and abroad due to its accuracy, frankness and logical news coverage and in tackling all sensitive socio-economic developments which directly affect our daily life.

**Mr. Michael Hamameh**, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Information: The first impression anyone gets from reading the Jordan Times is that of a moderate pan-Arab daily newspaper, which is based on highly credible, accurate and analytical information. The only negative remark I have about the Jordan Times is that it sometimes carries a lot of local sensitive news and articles, without considering the surrounding circumstances. Yet, publishing sensitive news could also be seen as positive since it is associated with a system of free papers. I also believe that the newspaper's editorial staff are specialised people and this is a work merit which is rarely found in any other local daily.

Due to Jordan's geographical location and its rapid socio-economic development which has turned the country into a communication and business centre, I believe that the daily appearance of the Jordan Times is needed for all the foreign community residing here and also for all those travellers who use Jordan as a crossing point to surrounding countries. It has also succeeded to a great extent in presenting Jordan's socio-economic development to the outside world.

I would like to see the newspaper carrying more articles on the country's tribal law, the meaning of Islam, women's status and domestic tourism since a large scale of its readership are foreigners who are eager to know a lot about Jordan.

The Jordan Times should also develop a stable and comprehensive editorial and coverage policy, which should not be affected by the absence of a reporter or an editor, and this would help the newspaper to be more consistent since I notice that certain subjects are tackled consistently and then all of a sudden disappear.

**Mr. Wadi Gousous**, Head of the Press Development at the Royal Court: The Jordan Times has fulfilled a national need and necessity in the political life and mass media in Jordan. It has conveyed to the foreign community in the country Jordanian viewpoints and given them direct access to news and information. In addition its reporting and editorials are of a high standard comparable to the best in the world. I hope it will keep up its high standard and good work.

**Brig. Adnan Al Daghestani**, Director of the Department of Moral Guidance: I am a regular reader of the Jordan Times as sometimes it carries reports on military related issues as well as military guests visiting the Kingdom. The Jordan Times includes very comprehensive research and it is very useful. There are certain issues of interest to the foreign readers rather than Arabs since the paper caters primarily for foreigners. I would suggest the paper carries local issues that enhance national sentiment of the public so that foreign readers feel that the Jordan Times is Jordanian first and foremost. More articles should be included in order to familiarise the foreign community about the achievements of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

**Mr. Munib Tougan**, Director of Public Relation At Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airlines: I remember when the Jordan Times was created. At that time, I received its birth with cynicism as it saw the light following several unsuccessful tries. Today, I am extremely happy to see that the Jordan Times has survived ten years of difficult times and it has matured to the point of becoming well-established and an inalienable source of information for the English speaking community in the Kingdom. In my capacity as Alia public relations officer I definitely support the newspaper which is one of the few bridges that link Jordan with the world at large; politically, or in the fields of economy and culture.

**Dr. Ahmad Al Qatanani**, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs: The Jordan Times has been a very successful newspaper in terms of covering important local developments in the fields of politics, economics and social welfare as well as all international developments. But I still believe that the Jordan Times should stress more on the daily local affairs and therefore I suggest that the newspaper's home news page should be double in size.

Although the foreign readers constitute the newspaper's largest sector of readers, I still believe that a lot of bi-lingual people read your newspaper and therefore, its columns and editorialised articles should be increased. Due attention should also be given to columns and articles which tackle Jordan's numerous socio-economic problems.

The Jordan Times' excellent political coverage helps its readers know much more about tiny details which are often missed by the other local dailies.

**Dr. Soufian Al Tel**, Director of the Environment Department at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment: The newspaper has filled a large gap in the life of all foreigners living in Jordan. Although its Jordanian readership is limited, I often hear foreigners describing it as a source of vital information and I know that a lot of foreign embassies in Jordan use your articles as reference to be used by their respective countries.

Its survival is a need since it acquaints the foreign community with the socio-economic and political developments which have been taking place in Jordan. Therefore, the Jordan Times is our country's herald and mirror.

**Dr. Salem Al Lawzi**, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Agriculture: The Jordan Times is the most readable newspaper in Jordan since it contains a lot of qualitative information rather than quantitative materials. It is very difficult to criticise the newspaper because of its relatively small size. I wish it could increase its number of pages. I believe that the agricultural sector in Jordan is covered by your newspaper in an extensive and professional manner and one can often find a lot of agricultural articles that provide controversial points of view, especially when the article is a mixture of government and non-government opinions.

**Dr. Bassam Saket**, Director General of the Pension Fund: I have been a constant reader of the Jordan Times and I think it is a success. The Jordan Times I believe is not only a newspaper for the Jordanians and foreign readers, apart from the fact that it relays Jordan's views to the outside world, it also brings to the local readers foreign press reviews and opinions of foreign politicians about the Middle East region. I believe that the Jordan Times has over the past ten years achieved a remarkable success which should serve as an incentive for further achievements. I suggest that the Jordan Times should translate more and more of local writings to present them to foreign readers and also introduce a section featuring background of Jordanian cities and villages.

**Mr. Fuad Khoury**, Supreme Court Judge: I am a regular reader of the Jordan Times. I think highly of it; it is definitely a good paper, but it does not cover court judgements which are of great interest to foreigners. It is worthwhile writing a resume about court judgements which would make the paper more interesting to law people and foreigners. I like your political reporting, some of which is very comprehensive and very factual. I also think page 8 is very nice and as a whole it (the paper) is very good.

**Mr. Jamal Al Shaer**, a former minister and National Consultative Council (NCC) member: The Jordan Times is read regularly by my (British) wife. She had to because of the language, but continued because she thought it was, and still is, a good daily newspaper. My wife and other Jordanian and foreign friends drew my attention frequently to read good articles whether written by the staff or others. And sometimes I read it myself from cover to cover and always found it to be of a good standard. Compared to papers issued in English in various countries, both of us think the Jordan Times is one of the best. Thanks to the able and enthusiastic editors and staff and the good measure of freedom of our press, and especially that enjoyed by the Jordan Times.

**Mr. Issa Madanat**, a political activist: I do not read the Jordan Times regularly because I cannot afford it. However, I think that the Jordan Times endorses the government's political line, just like all the other newspapers and the Jordanian mass media. But unlike the other newspapers, the Jordan Times is more comprehensive in covering international events in order to appeal to its readers who are mainly foreign diplomats and the Jordanian intelligentsia. The Jordan Times also seems to enjoy more freedom than the other newspapers.

## Parliament members, political personalities

**Mr. Peter Salah**, former undersecretary of the Ministry of Information: I think very highly of the Jordan Times, its editors and its reporters. It is a real pleasure to start the morning by reading it. I wish the Jordan Times continuous success in the coming years. And that the Jordan Times should grow and become a true mirror of news reporting in Amman as well as its coverage of international news.

**Taher Hikmat**, a lawyer and former minister of information, culture and tourism: The Jordan Times is considered an important member of the Jordanian press and among English language papers in the Arab World. During its short life, the paper has shown a high degree of credibility and objectivity in tackling all sorts of news. Its analyses on political issues are distinctive for their in-depth knowledge.

For editors of international newspapers and the diplomatic corps on all levels, the Jordan Times is considered a responsible newspaper and very important. It also attains a special status in the U.S., Europe and amongst foreign communities inside the Kingdom. It is known as the "Herald Tribune" of the Middle East and it is no secret that a great number of international analysts and foreign ambassadors depend on items published in the Jordan Times.

I had the privilege of contributing to the paper by publishing some of my lectures and articles. I congratulate the Jordan Times staff; this small number of people exert the biggest effort.

I gladly point out that in my previous ministerial posts, I found the Jordan Times as a whole sincere regarding its sense of belonging and national sentiment for pan-Arab issues.

**Dr. Fawzi Tu'eme**, a member of parliament: The Jordan Times is a comprehensive paper as it tackles issues in a rather objective way. We need such a newspaper in Jordan. The paper enjoys a very good reputation amongst readers who are interested to get to the core of an article without an introduction. The Jordan Times gets to the point of any news item directly. Being a Jordanian who lived in the United States for seven years, I enjoy in reading the Jordan Times as I am used to English language newspapers. What could be done to improve the newspaper standards is that needed for any other newspapers. The improvement is beyond the papers capacity as it monitored directly. As a result, subjects are not tackled independently and thoroughly.

**Mr. Leith Shbeilat**, a member of the Lower House of Parliament: I do not read the Jordan Times on regular basis but I have noticed that it is much more accurate in reporting the news than the other Arab dailies. In general I am very disillusioned by our press, particularly the Arabic newspapers, and disappointed in our journalists. I think that Jordanian journalists are not daring in exposing important local and national issues while the publishers are basically concerned with making profits from the newspapers. I believe that most journalists practice censorship on themselves and are not ready to cover and follow controversial issues. However, I have noticed that the Jordan Times is more daring and frank in discussion and reporting the news.

**Mr. Ibad Wanhbeh**, Egyptian ambassador: I wish the Jordan Times continued success and progress on its 10th anniversary. I am a regular reader of the newspaper because it provides a round up of national and international news, essential to my work as a diplomat. I think it is a good newspaper with a balanced and comprehensive coverage of news and events in the Middle East and the world.

**Mr. Harald Bomer**, Swiss ambassador to Jordan: As I have only recently arrived in Jordan, it is hard for me to pronounce a fair judgement on the Jordan Times. But one thing remains obvious and unquestionable: Being the only daily English-language newspaper, it is an indispensable source of information for me. On the occasion of its 10th anniversary, I wish the Jordan Times all progress and prosperity.

**Dr. Luigi Amaduzzi**, Italian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Jordan: In general, the Jordan Times is a responsible newspaper with a colourful coverage of local, pan-Arab and international events. Being the most important source of information for the foreign diplomatic corps in Jordan, the Jordan Times is indispensable and I don't imagine foreigners can live without reading the newspaper.

**Mr. Ibrahim Baker**, a lawyer and a Palestine National Council (PNC) member: I think that the Jordan Times is more daring and candid in its coverage and presentation of news than the other Arabic dailies in Jordan. Whenever I want to know more details about a political development in the area I look for the Jordan Times to find out the sides that were not covered by the other Jordanian dailies.

**Mr. Ibrahim Abu Ayyash**, president of the Jordanian Engineers Association and a PNC member: I do not read the Jordan Times on regular basis but I do follow it closely when important events are taking place in the area, particularly in the Palestinian arena and when the newspaper carries its own special reports on political developments in Jordan and the Arab World. There is no doubt that some of the news covered by the Jordan Times is not covered by the local Arabic dailies. I am also impressed that despite its small size, which I personally like, it manages to cover a wide range of national and international news, unlike other bigger newspapers where advertisements are given more space than news.

**Mr. Azmi Khawaja**, member of Palestine National Council: The Jordan Times has filled a great information gap for diplomatic corps in Jordan and for the English language readers. What encourages me to read it constantly is its frankness, openness and accuracy in publishing its various news. I often find a lot of articles which are not published in any other local daily, or which are published but with no thorough coverage. Therefore, whenever I want to know what's going on I have to make sure that I read the Jordan Times.

## Diplomats

**Mr. Guido Vansina**, Belgian ambassador to Jordan: Congratulations to the Jordan Times, on the occasion of its 10th Anniversary. The Jordan Press Foundation has in my view met indeed with considerable success in achieving such a fine result, thanks to the dedication of so many talented newsmen, photographers and technical staff. In the rapidly changing society of Jordan, a mirror has been presented to the reader which reflects these changes in a comprehensive and clear-cut manner and which at the same time sets these changes in context with Jordan's permanent and universal values.

The Jordan Times is enjoyable reading for me every morning, and I would feel it as a very great loss if some day I were not to find it on my desk as usual, because somehow it would have ceased to appear. As it holds dear the same basic values which are also fundamental for Belgium's society, I would consider a hypothetical disappearance of the Jordan Times to be a great impoverishment in the advocacy of these values — of a much wider scope than that of Jordan alone.

**Mr. Patrick Leclercq**, French ambassador to Jordan: The Jordan Times is the first paper I read in the morning when I get to my office. I find the Jordan Times an indispensable tool in my work in Jordan. I am mostly interested in the coverage of the internal affairs of the government of Jordan and the editorial. I follow the news carefully and especially the main articles on page four. The Jordan Times is a well-done newspaper, very informative and agreeable to read.

**Mr. Pyare Lal Santoshi**, Indian ambassador to Jordan: Congratulations to the 10th anniversary of the newspaper. It provides a round up of national and international news, essential to my work as a diplomat. I think it is a good newspaper with a balanced and comprehensive coverage of news and events in the Middle East and the world.

**Mr. Harald Bomer**, Swiss ambassador to Jordan: As I have only recently arrived in Jordan, it is hard for me to pronounce a fair judgement on the Jordan Times. But one thing remains obvious and unquestionable: Being the only daily English-language newspaper, it is an indispensable source of information for me. On the occasion of its 10th anniversary, I wish the Jordan Times all progress and prosperity.

**Mr. Paul Becker**, U.S. ambassador to Jordan: Allow me to offer you my congratulations on the 10th anniversary of the Jordan Times. In its ten year history your newspaper has established itself as an aggressive journalistic force in the region — one helping your country develop a corps of journalists who can set standards for the whole region.

**Professor Ihsa Rashid**, Pakistani ambassador to Jordan: The Jordan Times is one of the best newspapers in the area. The quality of the material used reflects a maturity of outlook of the editorial board. Negative reporting is minimal and the focus is always on the positive aspects. I like the variety of the news covered in the newspaper. Specifically I like archaeology and the focus on important and diversified news in the international business and economics page and the nice, brief but concise round up coverage of sports. The editorials are candid, helpful and suggestive.

**Mr. Alexander Zinchuk**, Soviet ambassador to Jordan: I wish the Jordan Times the best on its 10th anniversary. As a non-Arabic speaker, the Jordan Times is my main source of information. I think that the editorials are of essence and always follow them very carefully and closely. I hope that the newspaper will continue to be a reliable and a well-informed source of information. However, I think that the newspaper could devote more space, if possible considering the small size of the Jordan Times, to important international issues pertaining to world peace, such as efforts to limit nuclear weapons.

**Mr. Dong Soon Park**, South Korean ambassador to Jordan: I would like to congratulate the Jordan Times on its 10th anniversary and wish it continued progress and success. Being a foreign diplomat and a regular Jordan Times reader, I consider it a first-class English-language newspaper which pays particular attention to the Arab national and cultural identity.

Besides including a wide variety of informative and interesting topics, the Jordan Times is keeping pace with the latest international and local political, economic, social and sports events. However, I think that local news should be covered more extensively, especially with regard to the agricultural, industrial, medical and construction fields. I also hope to read, in the future, more press editorials which provide adequate analyses of today's major events.

**Mr. Eric Boswell**, French ambassador to Jordan: The Jordan Times is the first paper I read in the morning when I get to my office. I find the Jordan Times an indispensable tool in my work in Jordan. I am mostly interested in the coverage of the internal affairs of the government of Jordan and the editorial. I follow the news carefully and especially the main articles on page four. The Jordan Times is a well-done newspaper, very informative and agreeable to read.

**Mr. Faisal Abu Koshok**, head of the information department at the Kuwaiti embassy: We read the Jordan Times every day. We are impressed by its honest, sincere and professional reporting. Moreover, the Jordan Times covers and reports news that is not usually carried by the other local newspapers.

**Mr. Christopher Trynes**, counsellor at the Australian embassy: A newspaper that is equal to most good newspapers. It covers a wide range of subjects that any experts would like to know about and it provides extensive political information. In fact, the Jordan Times is a better newspaper than the ones I read in the countries I have visited in South East Asia and the Middle East.

I find it a most enjoyable paper to read and the crosswords are quite popular. It provides the reader with daily important information and updates on flight schedules, cultural events and the changes in the currency rates. I wish more newspapers would do that, it is very useful.

**Mr. Guy Harman**, Canadian ambassador to Jordan: As the only English daily newspaper in Jordan, I find the Jordan Times useful and informative as it gives a good idea of what is going on in Jordan and in the world. I feel the newspaper emphasises international affairs, but it gives some good coverage of local news which I truly appreciate.

**Mr. Ingemar Stjernberg**, Swedish ambassador to Jordan: The Jordan Times is not just an informative newspaper. I find the Jordan Times an enriching must. I do miss you on Fridays.

**Mr. Resat Arim**, Turkish ambassador to Jordan: The Jordan Times is easy to read, because you know where the news is located. At the embassy as well as at home we all read the Jordan Times. We read the editorial daily because we believe that it tackles and analyses very important events. I first came to Jordan six years ago, and the Jordan Times was a smaller newspaper. Now, I am very happy to see that it has developed to become eight pages and that it includes many interesting and important subjects. As an embassy, we would like to see more information about new regulations and laws issued in Jordan and adopted by the cabinet. The Jordan Times has a very good standard and it gives balanced and very exciting news.

**Mr. David Malone**, first secretary at the Canadian embassy: What I value in the Jordan Times is the journalists who are resourceful people. People working at the Jordan Times are very well informed about various subjects. The Jordan Times is the first paper I read everyday. I think the economic coverage in the Jordan Times is unique because of the very lively economic subjects discussed. It is a very professional newspaper and I think that it tops number three or four among the foreign language papers in the Middle East. I like the articles written by Mr. Rami Khouri on archaeology in addition to other feature articles on Jordan.

**Mr. Gilberto De Almeida Ferreira**, charge d'affaires at the Brazilian embassy: The Jordan Times is very good, especially for foreigners. It is a serious and responsible newspaper both in international coverage as well as in domestic affairs. It is essential since the foreign community in Jordan finds the Arabic language very difficult to read. The Jordan Times is their source of news. If only it could be bigger in size to include more international issues and, most important, local issues. As a foreigner, I am always keen to read about the country I live in and to get first hand information on the latest developments. I also feel that the Jordan Times should cover more details about cultural events in the Kingdom.

**Mr. Bruce Nelson**, political officer at the American Embassy: People at the embassy read the Jordan Times every day and they are very impressed by the newspaper. It provides a good coverage of events in Jordan and the Arab World.

**Mr. Rudolf Lamp**, charge d'affaires at the Federal Republic of Germany: The daily appearance of the Jordan Times is of great importance and significance to the foreign community in Jordan since it presents its readers with easy, readable and informative news. I also find it very attractive to read since all of its news and articles are divided according to substance and are published under specialised pages, which are clearly classified. Even the smallest What's Going On column is helpful and well organised.

Reporting on local political and socio-economic events is very daring and interesting and the amount of significant news in the Jordan Times therefore is credible and sound. Although it does not cover many regional and international events, I can say that it gives the general reader a very good idea about what is going on in the world. If readers are interested to know much more and to read more news and reports in detail.

**Mr. Alfred Protz**, first secretary at the embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany: I find the Jordan Times most useful. It keeps me up to date with events in the Middle East. I like the lead editorials. They carry a clear yet moderate message. The translations of the Arabic editorials are also useful. The Jordan Times gives an excellent coverage of world news considering its limited space. I find that all major German events are covered. We are happy about this.

**Mr. P.A. Rafferty**, counsellor at the British Embassy: The Jordan Times is a valuable asset for those of us in the English speaking community in Amman. May it have many more birthdays.

**Mr. A.J. Coulson**, 1st secretary (information and political) at the British embassy: As a non-Arabic speaker, I find the Jordan Times an extremely useful aid in my work, keeping me abreast of both international and local issues in a very readable form. I congratulate it on its anniversary and wish every success for the next ten years.

**Mr. D.J. Hawkes**, first secretary (commercial) at the British embassy: As a commercial officer trying to keep myself informed about the Jordanian economy and commercial market, I find the Jordan Times an invaluable and varied source of information. Congratulations.

**Mr. Edward Alleyne**, second secretary at the British embassy: As the only English language daily newspaper in Amman, it goes without saying that the Jordan Times is widely read in diplomatic missions here. The service it provides is much appreciated. Long may it prosper.

**Mr. Praveen Varma**, attaché at the Indian embassy in Amman: My first impression about the Jordan Times is that it carries well-balanced reports and covers almost all major international events, though in a limited way. Judging from the relatively low circulation, I presume that there are limitations to what the newspaper could do. However, it is of great help to us to document major policy statements and speeches by Jordan's leaders, since the Jordan Times carries such statements and speeches in full. I am also sure that most other diplomats in Jordan feel the same way.

**Mr. Michael Koukakis**, charge d'affaires of the Greek embassy in Amman: The Jordan Times is a very useful tool for our work in Jordan. The newspaper offers, in a concise and informative way all the necessary information about local and international events. I very much like the whole layout of the newspaper. Pages one, two and three are very useful to us as an embassy. Page three gives a clear idea of the local news and pages one and two give complete and thorough coverage of the Middle East and international events. What is very nice also in the Jordan Times is the nice coverage of local cultural events.

**Kenneth Brill**, head of the Political Department at the American Embassy: Please accept my congratulations on the 10th anniversary of the Jordan Times. In my opinion the Jordan Times is one of the truly stimulating newspapers in the Middle East, with hard working and informed journalists. Best wishes for the next 10 years.

**Mr. Rudolf Lamp**, charge d'affaires at the Federal Republic of Germany: The daily appearance of the Jordan Times is of great importance and significance to the foreign community in Jordan since it presents its readers with easy, readable and informative news. I also find it very attractive to read since all of its news and articles are divided according to substance and are published under specialised pages, which are clearly classified. Even the smallest What's Going On column is helpful and well organised.

Reporting on local political and socio-economic events is very daring and interesting and the amount of significant news in the Jordan Times therefore is credible and sound. Although it does not cover many regional and international events, I can say that it gives the general reader a very good idea about what is going on in the world. If readers are interested to know much more and to read more news and reports in detail.



# ...suggest ways to improve news coverage, content

...the newspaper should have more pages in order to include articles on local developments, social issues and cultural events'

**Mr. Yang Shan Zhun**, first secretary at the embassy of the Peoples Republic of China: My colleagues and I are constant readers of the Jordan Times and we rely on it as a major source of information. I find the news and reports carried by the Jordan Times as quick, objective and above all friendly to the Chinese people. I especially like the feature stories on the Middle East situation in general and the Palestine cause in particular.

**Mr. Henri Lebreton**, Cultural Attaché at the French Embassy: I don't speak Arabic so I read the Jordan Times to keep up with what is going on. Of course we would like a French paper too. I think for diplomatic people in Jordan, the paper is a useful link with the social, economic and political life of Jordan.

**Mr. Suleiman Far**, Swiss embassy trade officer: As an elected reader of the Jordan Times, I find it my duty first, to commend the remarkable efforts of the editors and staff of our sole daily English-language newspaper and, second, to present some suggestions with a view to making it more responsive to the demand of our modern time.

Assuming that the Jordan Times is destined for foreign readers living in Jordan or abroad, I believe that these foreigners wish to know more about the Jordanian economy, civilisation, culture, heritage and, above all, the Arabic language. I am sure that many Jordanian intellectuals, especially university professors, have a lot to contribute in these fields. Moreover, I am confident that foreigners are interested to know the Jordanian public opinion with regard to certain political issues.

## Representatives of International, local organisations; institutions

**Mr. Per Olof Hallqvist** — UNRWA Director: I read the Jordan Times because I want to know the local news. I think that the coverage is good. I prefer to read about the international news in other papers, same goes for the economic news. I read the economy page to follow the local developments. I am interested in details of the international news which can not be published in the Jordan Times so I read other papers for the international economic news.

I do not read the entertainment page. However, I think there is far too little details in the advertisements. For example take the cinema coverage. I feel it is very bad because a reader has no idea what the movie is about, the cast etc... You need to put more specifics, and then I will begin to read the entertainment page. I like the editorial and analysis page very much. I always find interesting topics. Some goes for the cultural page, there are always worthwhile topics. The layout appeals to me. It is easy to scan. I can see the content of the paper and then go back to the articles which interest me. The headlines are good, they give me a good idea of what is going on, without reading the whole article. The paper as a whole is good, but there is certainly room for improvement.

**Mr. Abed Al Rahman Itayem**, UNRWA Public Information Officer: I believe it part of my duty to read the Jordan Times to see if there is any criticism or good news about UNRWA. I feel it is the Jordan Times' duty to make the people aware of UNRWA. The Jordan Times has been very cooperative and we are grateful to you. I find the political news up to date and the coverage good. However I find the local news relatively weak. The economic analysis is excellent and the editorials are informative rather than analytical. I would prefer the editorials to be more analytical.

The Jordan Times has good writers so you should use them instead of outside sources. Also you should not borrow ideas from the Arab papers. The reporters should find local and other topics themselves.

I feel that the paper could be expanded to more pages to give more coverage of Jordan. I believe the newspaper is important for foreigners and the Jordan Times is the best means to convey the news. I feel as a whole the paper is good, but we expect to see improvements, especially in the editorials; wider coverage of local news and not to resort to translation, have the reporters write instead.

**Ms. Suha Majdalani**, United Nations Children's Fund: Among the pages in the Jordan Times you can get the essence of what is going on in Jordan, the Arab World and on the international front as well. I think that more analytical articles such as those of Rami Khouri and editorials that put information in a more intellectual context are needed.

What is also needed are more international and regional news on cultural activities, not only in Jordan, but in a global perspective. The reliance on international news agencies is too heavy and should be reduced.

Since the target audience of the Jordan Times is foreigners, the paper needs to co-opt them into its way of thinking to support the country's political ideologies. The international press has its style of carrying news and the Jordan Times should counter-balance news in favour of the Arab perspective.

**Mr. Saleh Dabbakeh**, United Nations Children's Fund: I think it was better a few months ago as it used to contain more detailed stories and news analysis which are hard to find in Arabic papers. It is an absurdity not to publish the paper on Friday, since it is most wanted on that day. Pages 4 and 5 used to carry good activities of international organisations and agencies more prominently.

**Mr. Jalal Al Azzah**, United Nations Children's Fund: I think attention should be paid to local news and particularly those on page 1. The Jordan Times used to specialise on certain occasions in the past, why not any more? We appreciate the big effort by the Jordan Times' staff in informing the public on issues related to the latest developments on the global level.

**Dr. Hassen Khreis**, Jordan Medical Association president: The Jordan Times is indeed a reliable paper that carries bona-fide news items, mainly on the local front. What distinguishes the Jordan Times is that it contains stories that are not mentioned in the Arabic dailies. It plays an important role as it reflects Jordan to the foreign readers. I suggest a broader coverage of investigative social and political reports in order to achieve ultimate success.

**Mrs. Joan Mary Al Majali**, Vice President of the Cerebral Palsy Foundation: The newspaper has been very helpful in presenting local, Arab and international news for non-Arabic readers in Jordan. It has also helped the foreign community in informing them about local events and the core of political speeches, which usually appear in the newspaper in full text. The editorials and columns published by the Jordan Times are analytical and objective. But I would like to see more letters to the editor since there are numerous issues about which Jordanian society keeps complaining.

I would also like to see some film descriptions under each film title since a lot of us have no idea what the movie is all about and therefore do not have any hints about what to expect. I am a fan of Rami Khouri's articles and when my children were studying abroad, they always asked me to cut out and send all material written by Mr. Khouri.

Randa Habib's Corner is an interesting column as she tackles the society's social problems in a very straight-forward and open manner.

Local socio-economic and intellectual developments are well-taken care of in page three, but I would like to read more local articles on women's issues and other subjects of great significance to our community, with its wide variety of foreign and Jordanian citizens.

**Brigadier Youssef Qsueh**, Head of the heart institute at the King Hussein Medical Centre: The paper is very good as the news it carries is always up-to-date and there is some that is not published in the Arabic papers.

**Mr. Jany Bourdais**, French Cultural Centre Director: I read the Jordan Times and I focus specifically on the cultural events. I believe all that happens in Jordan in terms of cultural activities is covered very well in the newspaper. However, I hope the Jordan Times will spare a separate page or a special section for cultural events which would help the reader locate the cultural articles more easily. I like to read the Jordan Times because of the nice layout of the pages and, most important of all, the easy and clear English language used.

**Dr. Fakhreddin Daghestani**, President of the Royal Scientific Society: The contents of the paper are good but the number of pages is not sufficient. I think the coverage could be on a wider scale and more comprehensive.

**Mr. David Latta**, British Council representative: I think the political coverage is clear and interesting. I feel that the local news is okay, not very adventurous. I believe that there is room for improvement on cultural news. The newspaper publishes what is handed out by the cultural centres. I think that the readership would appreciate the reporters own criticism and/or personal reaction, not just what is written on the programme or what the cultural centre prepublicises. The economy page is not my personal interest so I won't comment, but I am sure it is very good. I read the editorials and analyses from time to time. I find them very interesting. The entertainment page is impeccable. As for the layout, I find it entirely manageable.

The suggestions I would give the J.T. is to include more independent comments similar to Randa Habib's Corner and Rami Khouri's articles on archaeology.

**Mr. John Wilcox**, American Cultural Centre director: I read everything in the paper. I find the local commentaries excellent and very interesting. The coverage of the political news is also very good. I read Fahed Feneh's commentaries with great interest. I feel that the paper could be expanded. You need more coverage of local events, more news in general, and in more depth. The paper is well laid out. I think that the Jordan Times is of a high standard for journalism in Jordan.

**Mr. Pernier Adolf**, director of the German Cultural Centre: I read the paper from the beginning to the end. I find the political, economic, and sports coverage excellent. I would like to see more details on local events. The Jordan Times should write more on traffic regulations laws and how to control traffic. I appreciate the articles by Rami Khouri. They give me a comprehensive view of the history of Jordan. I hope they will continue because they are very good.

I think that the Jordan Times should improve on its local coverage. What's going on in Jordan at one glance would be very helpful. I find the newspaper very good for information for foreigners, and I am glad to have such a paper.

**Mr. Tahsin Ogaili**, Spanish Cultural Centre director: I find the political coverage not bad. However the newspaper lacks in international news, especially in the coverage of European countries and in covering international cultural news. The coverage of the local news is also not bad. We use the news from page three and find it very helpful. We always look at it. Sometimes I read the editorials, but mostly I read the cultural, local and international news. I find them very important. As a whole I think the paper is very, very good and the reporters are good as well.

**Mr. Evgeny Garkov**, Soviet Cultural Centre director: I think politics is quite well covered. I am not very interested in economics so it would be difficult to give my opinion about the economy page. The local coverage is very good. I find the entertainment page alright, but maybe it would be better if the Jordan Times publishes activities as the cultural centres. I find the international coverage alright. You could publish more, but the size of the paper prevents this. I suggest that the newspaper publishes more articles about inter-Arab relations, and about the Soviet Union.

**Miss Amel Ghandour**, Queen Noor Al Hussein Foundation Researcher: As a disappointed reader of the local Jordanian newspapers, I was rather hesitant to put my impressions of the Jordan Times on the record. The Jordan Times has probably come under severe pressures, both internal and external, in its short ten year history which have undoubtedly affected its performance and growth. Hence, any balanced appraisal of its calibre of journalism would necessarily have to pay a large measure of attention to imposing outside circumstances as well as its internal office tension that inhibit the newspaper's attainment of a higher standard of journalism.

**Basma Lawzi**, head of the information office, department of the Arab Organisation of Administrative Sciences of the Arab League: I have always been a constant reader of the Jordan Times. I think it is the best local newspaper because it covers a wide range of subjects that other local newspapers do not cover. It reports and covers current events and political developments objectively and with a very good analytical approach. Our family makes it a point to bring home the newspaper every day and we often discuss social issues raised by the newspaper's columnists which are rarely or even never tackled by the other local newspapers.

## Bankers, businessmen

**Dr. Maher Shukri**, Central Bank of Jordan Deputy Governor: I wish to bypass complimentary statements in favour of the Jordan Times' excellent and reliable standard and I therefore would like to pin-point several issues which need to be improved by the newspaper. Due to the rapid communication technology and advancements, I believe that written news has lost its attraction and therefore I suggest that more reactions on news and updates on local and international developments should be presented in the newspapers' articles. I would also like to see more interesting news analyses which give forward-thinking ideas or discuss expectations regarding any important local and foreign development. I believe that repetition and beating around the bush is a major journalistic trend in Jordan and therefore the Jordan Times should keep away from these negative trends as much as possible. I wish to see and read more financial news analyses which contain a lot of figures and deep analysis, such as those excellent features which are written by Rami Khouri, since his articles usually give readers a wider spectrum of local figures and investment opportunities.

**Mr. Zuhair Khouri**, Housing Bank Director General: An accurate, objective and moderate local newspaper with a highly credible local and pan-Arab reputation. It has never published any groundless rumours or meaningless rhetoric, nor has it ever under-estimated the coverage of any local socio-economic and political issue. It is a specialised newspaper and therefore it differs from the other local dailies. The economy page, which is a source of great interest to bankers and economists, is somehow limited in its coverage of economic news. Despite this, I think that the Jordan Times gives a general and clear idea about the local economic situation in particular. I also believe that its staff are quite specialised.

**Dr. Anis Muasher**, Former Minister of Finance and a businessman: The Jordan Times' news coverage standard is of an excellent calibre and it is rated as one of the best pan-Arab newspapers. The Jordan Times is characterised by an excellent informative standard and offers a lot of vital columns which are written by renowned and educated Jordanian professionals and columnists.

**Mr. Soufian Al Sartawi**, General Manager of the Jordan-Kuwait Bank: An excellent, comprehensive, straight to the point and reliable source of information to interested bilingual readers and for foreigners. It has reached a high standard and gained a good reputation in comparison with the other local dailies. Congratulations.

**Mr. Gerard Bouley**, Banque National De Paris General Manager: The Jordan Times is not a bad newspaper. I am interested in business and economic development and I believe that the newspaper presents these subjects with a lot of reliable and accurate information. However, I would like to see a specialised page on local economic developments. Whenever some contracts are signed between a local governmental institution and a foreign contractor, the name of the contractor is never mentioned. Instead it reads "a foreign contracting company" and I would like to see more names of the winning contractors. In comparison with all pan-Arab English language daily newspapers, I believe that the Jordan Times could be rated as very good.

**Mr. Osama Naber**, Businessman: I do not trust the Arabic newspapers so I read the Jordan Times regularly as I consider it the best paper in the Kingdom. I suggest an increase in the number of pages to cover more news and at greater length.

**Mr. Mohammad Eslam Chaudhri**, Habib Bank General Manager: The newspaper has an excellent and concentrated coverage of local and Arab socio-economic and political developments. However, the newspaper has a biased attitude in covering international news in general and South Asian news in particular. In this respect, I believe that your newspaper gives due attention to Indian affairs, which are always highlighted. But when Pakistani news and developments are reported, they are either played down or show the negative policies of Pakistan. The issue of bias in covering South Asian news is often discussed by Pakistani nationals living in Amman and therefore, we would like to see a change in favour of Pakistani news coverage. I would also appreciate the newspaper if it would increase the quantity of local articles since foreigners are interested to probe into Jordan's socio-economic developments and activities. Since I am a banker, I would like to say that some of your columnists, especially Fahed Al Feneh and Rami G. Khouri, have excellent economic articles, which are usually used by our bank as official and important documented news. More news on international currency, banking problems and local banking developments should be published by your newspaper.

**Mr. Tawfik Khalil**, Arab Bank Senior Manager/International Division: As a daily reader of the newspaper, I would like to see more local opinions on foreign developments and international reports. The Jordan Times should try to present the significance of events rather than mention the news, which all of us can receive through the various media. A reporter should be allowed to write his comments and include them in his story since he is the number one person who follows up the news and interprets it. Otherwise, I believe it has an excellent and reliable reputation and what pleases me a lot when I read the newspaper is that it has a very simple yet precise and rich style in terms of language and style. What even pleases me more when I read your newspaper is that all of your foreign articles have by-lines and are sourced, which is very rare to find among the other dailies.

**Mr. Sami Ghamo**, businessman and former Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Sawt Al Shaab newspaper: It is very important for the guests in our country to understand our point of view, so an English newspaper is essential. The Jordan Times is well-known for its straight-forward and candid views on local as well as international issues. The commentaries are often more far ranging than those offered by the Arabic press and the Jordan Times gives us the opportunity to read first-hand international opinions. After ten years of experience, it is now time to see a weekly or monthly review of Jordan and the Arab World.

**Mr. George Twail**, Businessman and Chairman of Public Relations at the American University of Beirut Alumni Club in Jordan: The Jordan Times should get all encouragement and support from all its foreign and bi-lingual readers since it covers the various local, Arab and international socio-economic and political news. I believe it has a higher news credibility and accuracy than the news coverage of the other dailies and whenever I need to probe into local political developments I rely on the Jordan Times. A lot of news carried by the newspaper does not appear in other dailies or they might carry it later and this feature contributes towards the positive reputation of the newspaper. But I hope that more international and detailed political news would appear in your newspaper since it is a source of first-hand information to its numerous foreign readers. If the newspaper could present comprehensive articles on Jordan's money and financial market or on some of the countries economic problems and how such problems are affecting local businessmen and economists.

**Mr. Fares Abu Diyeh**, Businessman: The Jordan Times is an excellent in general but the number of pages is not enough. I never read the sports page. I sometimes spot spelling mistakes but I am sure that such mistakes happen mistakenly during the printing process. I don't like Randa Habib's corner as she subjects she tackles are often results of her personal experiences. I enjoy reading column 8 which includes interesting news items. I believe that the most readable part of the paper is column 8. To be frank, if it wasn't for the Mutt and Jeff cartoon, I wouldn't read the paper. I enjoy this cartoon very much but as for the Better Half, I think it is stupid. The column I enjoy reading is Marwan Muasher's; he has good command of the English language but it takes time until you reach the main point of the article. I suggest increasing the number of pages to include more reports on the local economic sector. Letters to the editor should be encouraged.

**Dr. Zaky Ayyoubi**, Businessman and a former writer at the Jordan Times: The Jordan Times fills the gap for an English newspaper in Jordan and it has certainly improved over the years. Jordan has some handicaps in journalism and articles tend to concentrate on individuals rather than on events. I would have expected better journalism in an English newspaper. The Jordan Times used to have very weak local coverage and although this has been developed, there is still a lot of room for improvement. The main problem that I see in the Jordan Times is the relatively high turnover of reporters. The Jordan Times has not been very successful in attracting and keeping talents.

**Mr. Halile Aguililar**, Marriott Hotel General Manager: I enjoy reading the Jordan Times because it offers its readers a variety of local, Arab and international socio-economic and political news that are covered in a very professional, reliable and accurate manner. I cannot state any major complaints because I can understand that the paper is working under a lot of pressure and this could explain the absence of tackling a lot of sensitive issues.

Despite the tight pressures impeding the newspaper from shedding more light on issues, I believe that the Jordan Times local political coverage is outstanding, objective and very reliable. The Jordan Times editorials and specialised socio-economic and political columns contain a lot of analytical information and therefore I read them with great interest. I have been in a lot of Arab countries and therefore I was exposed to a lot of the pan-Arab English language newspapers, but I can proudly say that the Jordan Times ranks among the best pan-Arab newspapers, if not the best. Since I have followed up the development of your newspaper with great interest, I would still like to read more about sports news as well as economic news which are sometimes not being followed up by the Jordan Times in a consistent manner.

I would also like to read more about the frustrations of the local businessmen since I believe there is so much to write about in the country's business sector. Although the newspapers' print quality is equal to that of an international standard, I would not mind seeing the Jordan Times appear with more pages.

**Mr. Somosa Kazu Muroo**, Businessman: In general, the Jordan Times is an excellent paper. I really do not know whether some articles are censored, but I have the impression that the paper is comprehensive in its coverage. However, the Jordan Times sometimes makes inevitable mistakes, especially in the daily guide.

**Mr. Hanj Kakish**, Businessman: The Jordan Times has improved to become the best newspaper in Jordan for its credibility. I think it is highly regarded by the public. The paper is also one of the most important news sources for foreigners to obtain first-hand information on both the international and local levels.

**Mr. Habib Fu'ad Habash**, Businessman: The Jordan Times is a comprehensive paper and of a very good reputation, even on the regional level. I would suggest more archaeological articles on touristic sites in order to give readers more information about the Kingdom's heritage and for the promotion of tourism.

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**Mr. Omar Al Nabulsi**, a lawyer: I believe that the Jordan Times has filled a vacuum in supplying readers with informative and well-organised news. It has become an urgent need in Jordan and especially in Amman since the capital has become a cosmopolitan city with a large community of foreigners and visitors. The paper has enlightened its readers on daily events and it also reflects the rapid socio-economic progress the Kingdom has achieved under the wise rule of His Majesty King Hussein.

It is also solid proof that journalism in Jordan has achieved a very good standard as reflected by the newspaper. If it were not for the daily appearance of the Jordan Times, I believe that a lot of the non-Arabic and bi-lingual readers would sense a great gap in being informed about the latest developments on the national Arab and international scenes.

I would like to say that Rami Khouri's articles are of an excellent intellectual standard and that they are informative and analytical. A lot of my friends and myself wait eagerly to read his columns and articles. I feel that the newspapers' editors, subeditors and reporters have done a superb job in maintaining the high standard and good reputation of the newspaper which it achieved since it first appeared.

**Mr. Saeb Neshehwa**, Businessman, Arab Management Systems Company: The Jordan Times is a well-established newspaper, but I would suggest more coverage of scientific and engineering activities in the Kingdom and on the international level. The layout is very good but the paper needs to increase the number of pages and, if possible, to publish it on Fridays.

**Miss Lucie Aslou**, Jordan International Hotel Public Relations Manager: I have always liked the Jordan Times as it is easy-to-read and well-organised newspaper, in which one can read the highlights of news in a few but expressive lines.

**Mr. Gheleb Sawalha**, Regency Palace Hotel Vice General Manager and Marketing, Sales Director: The Jordan Times should contain more international news since its readership is mainly the foreign community in Jordan who are interested to know more about the developments in their countries. The amount of local news covered by your newspaper is somehow inadequate since it fails to mention a lot about the tribal law in Jordan and other socio-economic aspects which are a source of valuable information to the foreigners in Jordan. I believe that the newspaper should enlarge its coverage, especially in areas of economics, sports, columns and editorials.

## Academics, university staff

**Dr. Marwan Kamil**, Yarmouk University vice-president: It is an excellent paper as it is rich with good articles. Its aim is not to stuff pages with contents but to give prominence to important events and issues. It tackles all sort of news with objectivity and balance. It also covers international news in a comprehensive way that allows the audience to follow up on the latest development in the world at large. I personally admire pages 4 and 5 for the interesting articles they contain. The layout of the paper is extremely well done, and contains amusing corners such as Mutt and Jeff.

**Dr. Kamel Kozan**, Faculty of Economic and Administrative Sciences at Yarmouk University: In general the Jordan Times is an admirable paper. I prefer pages 4 and 5 for the items they contain, as well as amusing features such as the cartoon. The daily guide is very useful. The sports page neglects important sports that could be of interest.

**Dr. Werner Wagner**, A German professor at the University of Jordan: The Jordan Times is a very important newspaper because it gives readers first hand information on the latest developments in the world. The Jordan Times' political news is very informative and compares well with the news I read in German weekly periodicals. The size of the paper is small, but still it covers the main events that take place in any part of the globe. I recommend more coverage of cultural and scientific developments.

**Dr. Yasser Adwan**, director of the Public Administration Department at Yarmouk University: It is obvious that the Jordan Times is of a high and distinguished level of journalism as it tackles exclusive issues which you don't find in other local newspapers. I recommend that the Jordan Times publish specialised investigative reports on economic and financial events.

**Dr. Hani Abdul Rahman**, dean of student affairs at the University of Jordan: The Jordan Times is Jordan's mirror to the local foreign community and the international world. However, it still lacks analytical articles on various socio-economic local issues. The newspaper also fails to cover the university's activities in a comprehensive manner, and I think that the progress the local universities have made is a true reflection of the Kingdom's educational progress and is something we should boast of.

I rarely read any letters to the editor in the Jordan Times and this could mean that its readers are not reactionary people or that the newspaper itself is not very popular. However, the Jordan Times is not to be blamed for not receiving any letters to the editor since Jordanian people are generally apathetic.

**Dr. Erkut Goktan**, A Turkish professor at the Yarmouk University (Faculty of Economy): In general, the Jordan Times enjoys a very good reputation because of its high standards. It contains a number of good columns such as Marwan Muasher's Talking Straight and financial and economic news analysis by Dr. Fahed Feneh. In my opinion, page 8 is the most informative page for the variety of news items it contains. The daily guide on page 2 is also a help to readers.

**Dr. Alaeddin Tileyioglu**, A Turkish economics professor at Yarmouk University: The newspaper has good coverage of local and international events with emphasis on the latest regional developments. It is the best means for foreigners living in the Kingdom to get first hand information on events in Jordan. Page 7 should give more prominence to local financial subjects instead of only to international economic events. Although the sports page has a good coverage of international events, sometimes it does not contain follow-ups.

**Dr. Nabih Haddad**, Yarmouk University Press and Information Department: The Jordan Times covers a great gap in non-Arabic newspapers in the Kingdom. The Jordan Times is well-edited and is on equal terms with world newspapers. Although it was designed for the foreign audience in Jordan, I notice that the Jordan Times bravely tackles local issues as well. I particularly enjoy page 4.

**Dr. Issem Mousa**, Yarmouk University Press and Information Department: A distinguished and well done paper compared to the Arabic language newspapers. I favour the Jordan Times' editorials for their frankness and truth. I also admire Rami Khouri's articles on archaeology and political issues, Randa Habib's Corner and Marwan Muasher's Talking Straight. Most readers find that the Jordan Times explains the Arab perspective in a good and balanced way. I would recommend that the Jordan Times allocate a special space, on a regular basis, to inform readers about cultural events and intellectual developments in Jordan. I should also mention that I use the Jordan Times as an educational tool for my journalism students.

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## 'And now, a word from our sponsors'

By Jamal Khalil  
and William Cordes  
Special to the Jordan Times

Advertising is an essential and critical element of any daily newspaper. Income from the purchase price of newspapers covers only the smallest fraction of publication costs. In order to pay their operating expenses and, perhaps, even to turn a small profit, newspapers depend on the revenues generated by advertising.

People react differently to advertising — whether it appears in the Jordan Times, other daily papers, magazines, or on radio or television. Some deplore the increasing commercialisation of our society, some are grateful for the financial support advertising provides to the mass media, and some people just plain enjoy reading the ads.

Advertising is perhaps best seen as simply one more form of communication, of providing information, of educating the consumer. In this sense, advertising is not merely a means for the newspapers to make money, but more importantly a service to our readers, whether they seek a new car, a place to live, courses in Arabic, a vacation, or a good restaurant.

On the occasion of our tenth anniversary, the Jordan Times is pleased to offer some of Amman's more prominent advertising professionals the opportunity to express their views of the Jordan Times, other media, advertising, and marketing in Jordan.

Mr. Sami Khalifeh, the Khalifeh Publicity Agency: In my opinion, the Jordan Times has provided over the years to be a useful advertising tool serving both the English-speaking foreign community and English-speaking Jordanians. Personally speaking, it is my favourite daily paper in Jordan. I believe that the Jordan Times could achieve or attain more popularity among Jordanian readers by addressing itself more and more to the local community, e.g. university and college students, and by offering news and amusement material to them in a less formal way, in specialised columns.

On behalf of myself, all my colleagues at Khalifeh Publicity Agency, as well as my clients, I wish the Jordan Times a very

happy 10th anniversary and all the success it needs for the future.

Mr. Rebeh Al Sughayer, the Petra Public Relations and Advertising Agency: The presence of an English-language newspaper has solved a problem for us in that we now can advertise in English to foreign readers. While we advertise to promote the sale of commodities, we would like to see the Jordan Times conveying a message rather than serving as a means for selling a commodity for advertisements.

Mr. Telat Garra'in, the Al Haditha Advertising Agency: Our advertisements in the Jordan Times are generally very effective, particularly the housing rental notices. Advertisements in the paper are an important marketing factor in a consumer society like ours. The amount of advertising in the Jordan Times has been recently affected in a negative way by problems with the quality of the printing. The printing should be improved and a new layout would enhance the general appearance of the paper.

Mr. Sim'aan At Bouri, the Bouri Advertising Agency: We advertise in the Jordan Times to reach both Jordanians and foreign nationals, and we feel that these ads have all been very beneficial and yield good results. It would be a good idea for the Jordan Times to form a special unit to prepare designs for the advertisers to ensure that they appear in an attractive shape. We would also like to see more pages, and ads in colour to enhance their appearance. The Jordan Times has made significant successes over the past 10 years, thanks to its staff and their efforts. I wish the Jordan Times continued progress.

Mr. Bassem Dajani, the Jerusalem Advertising Agency: Advertising in the Jordan Times brings effective results mainly in classified ads and especially if a product's target audience is foreigners. The Jordan Times is currently geared toward foreigners living in Jordan. It could improve by promoting itself more among English-speaking Jordanians. By doing so its readership would gradually increase. The Jordan Times should also improve its public relations with advertising agencies.

Mr. Osama Al Sharif, editor of the English weekly Jerusalem Star, in Amman: There is a need for an English publication in Jordan which is an open country in terms of providing local and overseas information. I understand the difficulty and vulnerability of an English language paper here as the circulation is small and advertising unpredictable.

Mr. John Rice, Associated Press correspondent in Amman: The Jordan Times is professionally done and it does a good job in combining news from various news sources to form comprehensive stories. The layout is consistent. The newspaper is essential reading for every foreign reporter.

Mr. Jawad Meraqa, Director General of the Jordanian News Agency, Petra: The Jordan Times has filled an important gap in the mass media by being able to convey Jordanian views and major developments in the country and the world to the foreign community and to the diplomatic corps in Jordan. I think that the reporting and editing in the Jordan Times is of a very high and advanced professional standard of the coverage of events is comprehensive and in-depth.

Mr. Mohammad Gunelm, Voice of America Director: The Jordan Times is a readable newspaper and has a very high standard.

Mr. Charles Wallace, Chief of the Middle East Bureau, the Los Angeles Times: I find it very useful in my work. The reporting and news coverage are balanced and fair.

Mr. Scott Macleod, a freelance American journalist and writer on Middle East affairs: The Jordan Times is the best English language newspaper in the Arab World and can be counted upon for reliable coverage of the many crises affecting the region.

Mr. Touma Hezou, ABC news: The paper is very useful. The coverage of many stories is better than in the Arabic press. Lead stories are analytical and generally intelligently written. Guest columnists are critical of Arab and local government which is a healthy sign.

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Mr. Ibrahim Nouri, Reuters correspondent: Being a journalist, I value all newspapers, not to mention that the Jordan Times is a valued subscriber to Reuters news agency.

Mr. Bader Abdul Haqq, senior editor and columnist at Al Rai: I suggest that the Jordan Times should change its name to "Nicaragua Times" since the newspaper's distance from the Jordanian readership is as far as Jordan is from Nicaragua. I believe that there is a vast difference between the Jordan Times and the other local newspapers in terms of the amount of freedom it entails and the language.

It publishes so many different news items which are taboo for the Al Rai editors. At other times, the Jordan Times adopts American or Western view points on economical and political issues and it appears as if the Jordan Times editors are detached from the worries and problems of local society. What even hurts me more is that the Information Ministry treats the Jordan Times as if it were a foreign newspaper in terms of censorship, although I know that the Jordan Times' readership differs from the other dailies' readership.

On the occasion of its 10th anniversary, I hope that the newspaper's editor would try harder in making the Jordan Times identity more Arab-oriented and he should help its reporters to write in English while thinking in Arabic and tackling news with more interest on the Arab way of solving problems.

Mr. Jawad Zadeh, director of Radio Jordan foreign programme: I am afraid I won't be very helpful. I only look at page four for the political analyses because sometimes I use them in broadcasting.

Mr. Andy Cooper, Radio Jordan broadcaster: I feel that the paper as a whole is okay. However, in comparison to the English papers, I find it slightly boring. The political coverage is good, the economic news is interesting, and the local news very interesting. My favourite column in the newspaper is column 8. The layout is quite good.

Mr. Rui Yingjie, Xinhua News Agency correspondent: Jordan Times is the only English daily in Amman so it becomes a very important source of information, especially for foreign residents who do not know the Arabic language. I have been a reader of the Jordan Times for nearly two years and I have benefited from it a great deal. The local news and analyses on Middle East developments which are carried by the Jordan Times always attract attention since they always give fresh information and interesting ideas.

Mr. Mohammad Al Amairah, Al Rai page one editor: I won't be exaggerating if I confess that I have been reading the Jordan Times daily for the past ten years. It has achieved great success during its ten year life-span in terms of following up news, investigative reporting and news analysis. The Jordan Times' journalistic experience is unique and exciting in terms of local journalism in particular and in terms of pan-Arab English journalism in general. A basic characteristic of the Jordan Times' reporting is freedom of expression and honest news.

Mr. Yacoub Jeber, editor of the English news on Jordan Television: I feel that the opinion page is good. However page four and five need more analysis. The coverage of political news is good and says more than the Arabic newspapers. But the paper should not be 100 per cent news. The local features are very important and not enough is said about what happens locally. Rami Khouri's articles are excellent, we need more of these articles. Also, the entertainment page could be expanded. The layout and paper as a whole is good.

Mrs. Vera Marar Abu Hannoud, radio broadcaster: I am bothered by certain editorials and articles on page four as some of the writers contradict themselves. They give a point of view and a few months later they write on the subject again but with a completely different point of view. Editors should be more careful and read between the lines, because many times derogatory comments about the Arabs creep in, notably in foreign journalists' articles.

Miss Rima Azar, radio and television broadcaster: I feel that the political news is very good. The articles by Rami Khouri are good and the analyses are useful and enlightening. I do not read the economy page or the entertainment but sometimes, I do the jumbles at work. The paper is too small with not enough reporting on local events. The Jordan Times should not just be a political paper. What is lacking now is the human touch. Social subjects, women and health are not given enough attention. There should also be more people's comments and reactions. It is important that people say what they feel and those who disagree respond. People's participation is extremely important. As for the layout, I do not take much notice of it.

Mr. Fizz Walters, Radio Jordan broadcaster: I like the Jordan Times very much. I am annoyed, however, that the paper stopped covering the cinema programmes and times. I feel the local coverage is reasonable, however, local news does not interest me as much as the international news. I like the sports page but not when there is not much space for the news. The layout is good even though the television programmes are not always correct. As a whole the paper is good but I would suggest more local news, more tight news, and more special features.

Miss Bayan Al Tel, newscaster: I find the political news brief and good. The commentaries are excellent. Sometimes however, I feel that they are exaggerated and personal. In those articles there is no objectivity and the topics are not worthy to be written about, so the editor should be more careful in who he allows to write and what he allows to be printed. But other times I am surprised at the courage some writers have. It gives me a feeling that there is freedom of expression and press in Jordan. I read the horoscope and the cartoons, they are really good. And column 8 is good too. It has light and strange topics. As a whole I think the paper is very good.

Mr. J.P. Murray, director of the French Audiovisual Centre: I read the Jordan Times and like the cultural coverage in the newspaper. I hope the newspaper will allocate a special page or section for cultural activities. I think "What is Going On" is a very useful section and informative, but I think we need to know more details on the different activities mentioned.

Kathy Kakish, Radio Jordan broadcaster: I read the local news first and sometimes it is very good, other times very poor. There is a need for more local reports and local photographs. I only look at the political pages when there is some hot issue because being a broadcaster I hear the news before the paper is printed. The layout for page one is beautiful, especially with the paragraphs in bold print and column 8 adds a nice touch to the day. The paper is good as a whole.

Mr. Hassan Abu She'ereh, a television director and actor: The Jordan Times is very well produced, but it lacks coverage on cultural events, especially those which take place in the Kingdom. It is a pity that so many local cultural events are not covered as they are of great benefit to society.

### General readers

Dr. Salah Saleh, a neurologist: The Jordan Times is doing a very good job and we are all proud of the news paper. Being an art collector and since my first hobby is archaeology, I suggest diversifying archaeological articles and giving them vital colour. We (I and my friends) are fed up of the same rhetoric coverage on art and tourism in the paper.

Mrs. Laurie Cabrese, a Filipina working in Jordan: I enjoy reading the Jordan Times and I believe the newspaper is the main source of information for the foreign community in Jordan. The international coverage is good and I read all the reports on the recent typhoon in the Philippines.

Miss Glorie Esteria, a Filipina working in Jordan: I enjoy reading the Jordan Times very much and I am a regular reader.

Mrs. Rosemarie Ehrhardt, a housewife: If it was not for the daily appearance of this renowned newspaper, I would never have had a chance to follow up on local, regional and international developments concerning all issues. When I first arrived here from Germany 20 years ago, I was totally isolated from all developments and I would wait for some German newspapers to arrive in Jordan by mistake. I believe that the newspaper's foreign news coverage is somehow centred on Britain and the U.S. Despite the fact that these two countries play a key role in the Mideast, I would not mind reading more about the European, African and Latin American developments.

One of the columns I enjoy reading is that by Fanda Habib, and I hope that a daily corner could possibly become one of page five's characteristics. Column eight is also one of my favourite corners in the newspaper. I hope that more enthusiastic writers like Marwan Muasher could be encouraged to contribute more to your daily. An improvement to your home news page could be the addition of more local, specialised articles that carry some basic solutions to a lot of our everyday problems.

Mrs. Rashe Tejle, a housewife: The Jordan Times could be better. There is very little coverage of local news.

Mrs. Mery Shaer, a housewife: I think the Jordan Times is an excellent daily newspaper. It is informative and gives practical daily information.

Miss Karam Ferah Abu Jeber, a U.S. graduate: I think that the Jordan Times is not thorough in its coverage of news. For example there is not a woman's corner which tackles women's problems and issues. Moreover, I always find linguistic mistakes including spelling mistakes and wrong usage of expressions.

Mrs. Sonia Hagopian, a housewife: I like the Jordan Times and enjoy the news sections. However, sometimes I find the articles on page four to be of not much interest, almost as if they were added to fill up space. (Continued on page 14)

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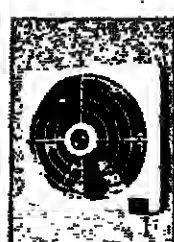
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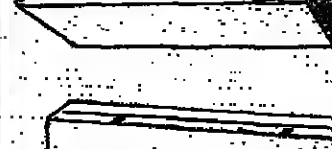
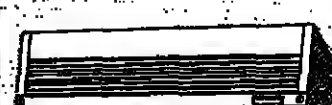


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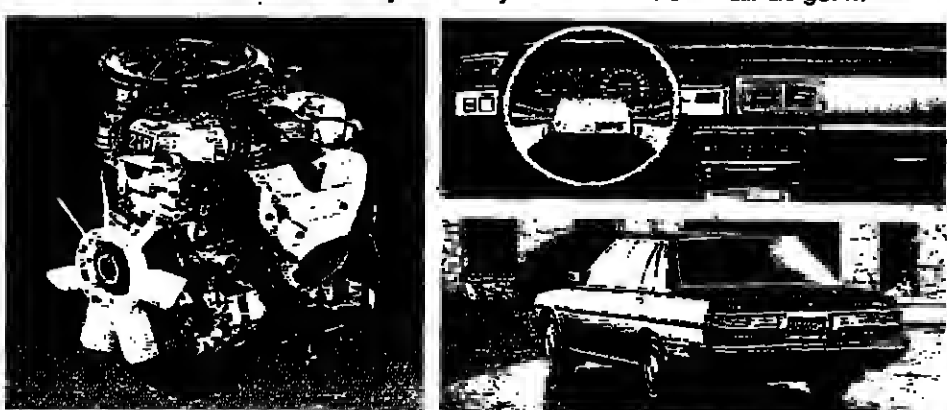


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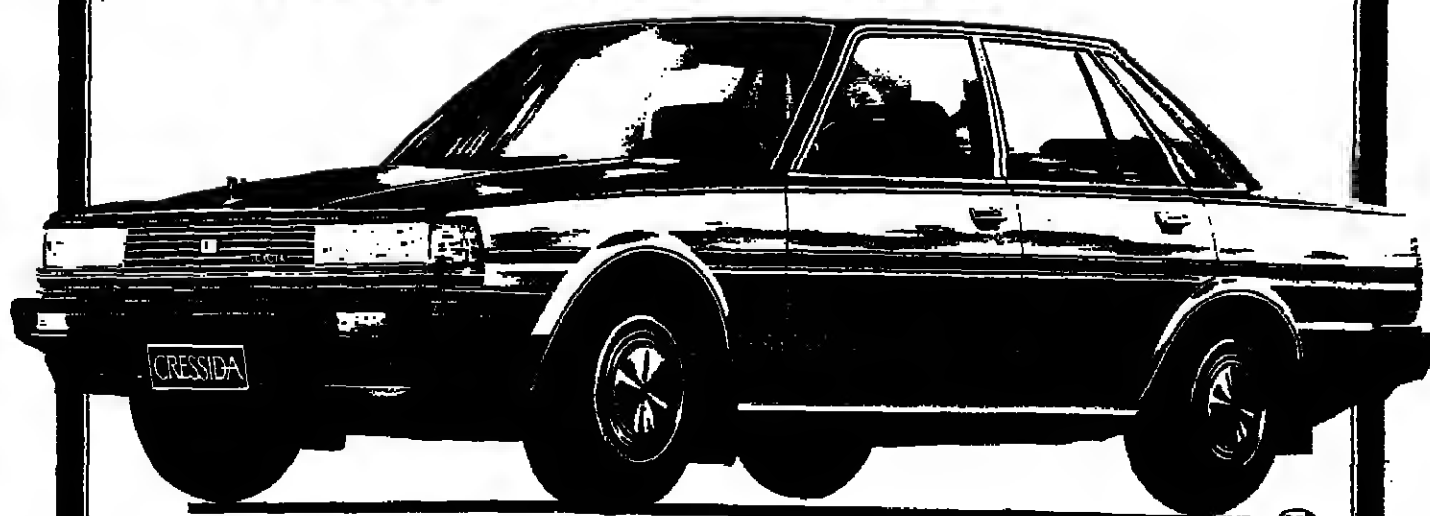


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# History of English-language newspapers in Jordan, Palestine

By Lamis K. Andoni

THE HISTORY of the English-language press in Jordan is inextricably linked with and in fact constitutes an extension of the English-language press in Palestine. The deep historical bonds between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples and the strong impact the Palestinian problem has left on the political and social outlooks of both peoples have been important factors that shaped the identity and the objectives of English language newspapers in Jordan and Palestine.

Since the very beginning, the Palestinian question and the Zionist claim to a "Jewish homeland" in Palestine were the main concerns of the English-language newspapers. And following the establishment of the state of Israel in Palestine in 1948, both the Palestinians and Jordanians cooperated together to produce English-language newspapers which could convey the Arab point of view to the world.

Although it is difficult to trace the history of the first English-speaking newspaper in Palestine, "Falastin," established in 1929 by the late Issa Elissa in Jaffa, is believed to be the first "sizeable English-speaking paper" published in the country under the British mandate. Mr. Reje Elissa, a co-owner of the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i dailies and Director General of the Jordan Distribution Agency, was still a young boy when his father decided to publish "Falastin" as an offshoot of an Arabic daily which carried the same name.

"There were of course other English-speaking newspapers, but 'Falastin' was the first sizeable newspaper," Mr. Elissa told the Jordan Times in a recent interview.

The largest newspaper during that period had six pages, but as Mr. Elissa explained, "other newspapers that existed then were more like pamphlets than newspapers."

The first editor of "Falastin" was an Indian scholar, A.R. Akhtar, and at a later stage, a Palestinian, Mr. Azmi Al Nashibi, became the editor of that newspaper.

"Falastin" was established against a backdrop of increasing tension between the Palestinian Arabs and the Zionist Jews who immigrated to Palestine in waves from dif-



Raja Elissa

ferent parts of the world with the aim of establishing a Jewish "homeland" in the country.

"Consequently, 'Falastin' then mainly covered the question of Palestine," Mr. Elissa said. "It was a propaganda organ for the Palestinian cause vis-a-vis the Zionist allegations and schemes."

"Falastin," however, could not continue for long and by 1931 its owner was forced to close it down. "It died under heavy losses," Mr. Elissa recalled.

Other English-language newspapers were published following the closure of "Falastin" but unfortunately not enough details are available on their nature or on the reasons that compelled their closure.

According to a book entitled "The History of the Arab Press in Palestine between 1876-1948," at least four English-speaking Palestinian newspapers appeared prior to the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948.

The book provides a chronological breakdown of the English-speaking newspapers in Palestine:

— "Time of Palestine," owned by Mr. Munir Ibrahim Haddad; a political daily published in Haifa in 1933.

— "The Palestine Daily Mail" (1934-1943), also owned by Mr. Haddad (Editor-in-chief: Labib Butros Jreidini); it focused on politics, trade and social affairs, appearing six days a week, in Haifa.

— "The Palestine Youth" (no dates available), Publisher Livan Kashabashian, Editor: In Chief Sharif Mansour; a literary quarterly published in Jerusalem.

The establishment of the state of Israel in 1948 and the diaspora of the Palestinian people that followed almost

paralysed the progress of the Palestinian press in general and the English-speaking newspapers in particular.

Palestinians who were able or allowed to stay in the territories on which Israel was established, struggled to establish an Arabic press which reflected their aspirations and interests and which aimed at preserving the Palestinian identity.

It also took the Palestinians, who found themselves refugees in the West Bank, Gaza Strip or scattered around the Arab World, a while to recover from the shock of becoming homeless and to resume the development of the Palestinian press.

The priority was naturally given to the Arabic-speaking press, but by 1963, 13 years after the unification of East and West Banks, the owners of the Jerusalem-based "Al Jihed" Arabic daily decided that the time was ripe for publishing an English-speaking newspaper.

According to Mr. Elissa, the "Jerusalem Times" was an eight-page political daily printed in tabloid size. "It also included columns and articles, but it mainly depended on the translation of political news from 'Al Jihed'."

The editor of the "Jerusalem Times" was Aram Ballan, who is currently the editor of the Arabic news broadcast on Israeli television.

The "Jerusalem Times" continued until 1967, when Israel occupied the West Bank.

In 1966, Mr. Elissa and Mr. Mahmoud Al Sherif, who owned the "Al-Manar" Arabic daily then, jointly published the "Jerusalem Star" which lasted for one year only. Mr. Sherif, who is currently the editor-in-chief of "Al Dustour," was the general director of the former "Jerusalem Star." Mr. Elissa was its editor and the now-famous American TV correspondent Suleiman Abdullah Shriefer its managing editor.

Mr. Shriefer, who wrote the book "The War of Jerusalem," is now the Cairo-based U.S. National Broadcasting Company television network correspondent and teaches mass communications at the American University in Beirut (AUB).

Mr. Sherif now takes pride in being the one who discovered Mr. Shriefer.

The Jerusalem-based "Jer-



Mahmoud Al Sherif

usalem Star" had a number of freelance reporters, who covered local news and were mostly foreigners who resided in Jerusalem, except for Ms. Line Gress who worked as a proofreader and later a reporter before joining the AUB to pursue her postgraduate studies. Ms. Gress is now the director of international relations at Jordan Television.

The "Jerusalem Star" heavily depended on translated material since international news agencies at the time rarely covered the Arab World in their English service. "We depended on Reuters for international news and on its Arab affiliate, the Arab News Agency, for the news of the Arab World and the Middle East," Mr. Sherif said.

"Unlike nowadays the main problem we faced was the scarcity of news," Mr. Sherif noted. "Today the problem that faces the editors is how to select news from the avalanche of reports supplied by the Arabic and international news agencies."

Most commentaries, editorials and columns, which appeared in the former "Jerusalem Star" were political and attempted to refute Israeli and Zionist policies, according to Mr. Elissa. That reflected the feelings of Palestinians and Arabs towards the establishment of Israel at the expense of the Palestinian people, he said. But following the Christmas issue of 1966, the owners of the "Jerusalem Star" found themselves compelled to close it.

"We had to fold it down for economic reasons," Mr. Sherif explained. "There was not enough advertising."

Another problem, as both Mr. Elissa and Mr. Sherif agreed, was the limited circulation of all newspapers. "Most of our readers were in Jerusalem but

tens of copies were also sold in Amman and in the East Bank," Mr. Elissa said.

Mr. Sherif recalled that the circulation was so limited compared to the present time, to the extent that an Arabic daily which sold 4,000-5,000 copies a day was considered a big success.

Three months following the closure of the "Jerusalem Star," the Jordanian government still thought that there was need for an English-language daily and consequently entered into a partnership with Mr. Elissa who agreed to edit a new English publication. This was to be the "Palestine News."

"The 'Palestine News' was the most up-to-date English-language daily in the sense that it had a full complement of staff compared with the previous English-language newspapers," Mr. Elissa pointed out. "A full complement of staff in the standards of those days meant that for the first time an English daily had 12 people working for it," he explained.

While Mr. Elissa was the editor of "Palestine News," Mr. Nebil Elissa was its managing editor. "The newspaper depended mainly on freelance reporters who wrote features," Mr. Elissa said.

The Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in June 1967 marked the end of the "Palestine News" short life, however, and it was not until October, 1975 that another English-language daily was to be published. This is the Jordan Times, whose story is being told today.

In 1983 the owners of Al Dustour, among them Mr. Sherif, decided to start another English newspaper in Jordan and applied for the right to name it the "Jerusalem Star."

"We felt that we had a more right to reclaim that name," Mr. Sherif said. "Our application for the same name also reflected nostalgia to those years and to the first 'Jerusalem Star'."

According to Mr. Sherif, one English daily (the Jordan Times) was enough for Jordan and Al Dustour therefore decided that the new "Jerusalem Star" be a weekly with focus on in-depth features and news analysis.

Jordan's two English-language newspapers are co-existing in peace and harmony today. Who knows what the future holds for them?

## What former staff think of J.T.

By P.V. Vivekanand

FORMER STAFF MEMBERS of the Jordan Times agree that the newspaper is continuing to grow and has been able to make much capital out of its experience in the 10 years since its inception, and the emerging consensus is that it could do a lot more to justify its image as one of the best pen-Arab English-language publications in the Arab World.

"It is one of the best sources of information on Arab affairs with special focus on the Middle East conflict," says Dr. Mejdi Sabri, who edited the economy page for one year — July 1981 to August 1982.

"It also provides better coverage of local events than it used to during the period I worked for the newspaper."

Dr. Sabri, however, feels that more attention should be given to various aspects of the Jordanian economy and that the newspaper should strive to come out with investigative and informative articles on developments in the Kingdom's economic sector.

Dr. Sabri, who is now director of economic planning for Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, says "regular features of Arab and international economy should help set up a base for regular coverage of day-to-day developments in the field."

Miss Samira Kewar, who worked as a staff reporter for the newspaper for about 18 months between August 1981 and January 1983, says she finds "restrictions on news coverage as far as political developments are concerned."

"I feel that when I used to work for the Jordan Times and cover political developments there was more freedom over what to report and what not to," says Miss Kewar, who joined the International news agency, United Press International, in January 1983. "The Jordan Times is a major source of information for the Western media, and the newspaper has to justify this expectation in terms of more liberal coverage of political events."

Miss Kewar, who now is a researcher for the NBC and corresponds for BBC Radio and writes for the Washington Post after leaving UPI earlier this year, says "I hope the responsible authorities would take note of this aspect and take the necessary action."

All Kassar, who was editor of the opinion page for 11 months

between November 1981 and August 1982, says he "would not look at the Jordan Times as the only source" of information. "I do agree that the newspaper has grown considerably since the time I worked for it, but it is still a long shot away from being comprehensive."

Mr. Kassar, who left the newspaper to work as assistant director of Her Majesty Queen Noor's office, agrees that "coverage of local events has grown considerably and there still is a large scope for increased coverage in this aspect."

"On the whole, it remains the best newspaper in Jordan, in terms of news presentation and completion," says Mr. Kassar. Miss Josephine Mushahwer, who edited the features page and reported for the paper for nine months, says: "I find a lot of constructive changes in the newspaper after I left in mid-1982."

"The sources for news and features cover a much broader spectrum and the coverage of local events has grown considerably," says Miss Mushahwer, who now works at the Queen's office. "For me, the Jordan Times is a major source of information and I think the newspaper is doing every good job, considering the limitations imposed on it."

"In essence, I find few changes in the newspaper after I quit," says Zeinab Faroukhi, who worked for the Jordan Times for six months as features editor.

Reuters and the Associated Press remain to be the major sources for stories. But recently I have noticed that there have been some major shifts," adds Mrs. Faroukhi, who now works for an advertising agency.

"However, I look forward to reading the Jordan Times every morning and I notice that local events are covered much more extensively than before."

Mr. Ferid Shukry, a former translator, says he does not read the Jordan Times as frequently as he did when he worked for it for three years in the late 1970s and in 1980.

"But whenever I read the Jordan Times I am impressed by the changes that have been incorporated since the time I left," he says.

"I guess the dramatic change in news presentation and the liberal line that the Jordan Times follows are the best assets of the newspaper," says Georgia Musleh, who worked for the Jordan Times as a tra-

nslator for four years, between 1980 and 1984.

"If someone is looking for accurate information and interpretation of the news, he could count on the Jordan Times. The reader could also get a better and clearer picture of what is happening around him than those presented by the local Arabic dailies," he says. Meaz Shukayr, the man who set the Jordan Times in motion in 1975, says the newspaper "has grown to be probably the best newspaper in Jordan."

Mr. Shukayr, who, through the newspaper, groomed quite a good number of Jordanian as well as foreign journalists, says, "I have been following the Jordan Times' growth over the years, and I could say now it carries some of the best edited news items one can come across."

"Of course, there is a lot of room for improvement," says Mr. Shukayr, who now runs a printing and publishing house. "In my opinion, the paper could do with some dramatic changes in the inside pages, especially the opinion and feature pages." Philip Robbins, a Briton who served the newspaper as editor of home news for one year, in 1983 and 1984, says "it is really amazing how the newspaper has grown in one year." But, Mr. Robbins says, "it is regrettable that it could not expand anymore, although this might be understandable considering the limitations imposed on it by meagre resources."

Ulrika Mossberg, a former Swedish diplomat who edited the editorial page in 1983 and 1984, says she really "misses" the Jordan Times. "I stayed in Jordan for three years and the best of the three was the last — when I worked for the Jordan Times."

"As a former member of the diplomatic community who has lived in a number of countries, I could very well say the Jordan Times is probably the best English-language newspaper I have seen in a non-English speaking country," says Mrs. Mossberg.

"Reading the newspaper now, 16 months after I reluctantly let go of page 4, I am also surprised at the creative changes in style, editing and layout etc.," she says. "One point I would like to mention here is that the newspaper should give more coverage for the local scene... here again, I am aware of the limitations imposed on the Jordan Times."

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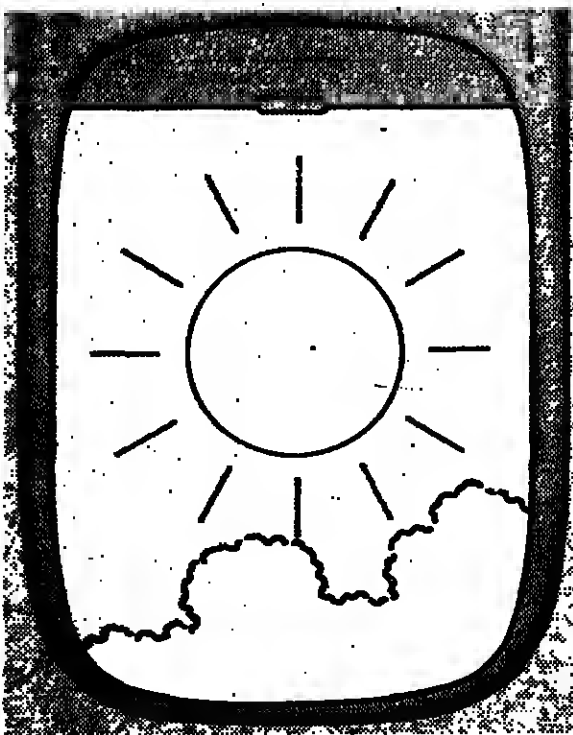


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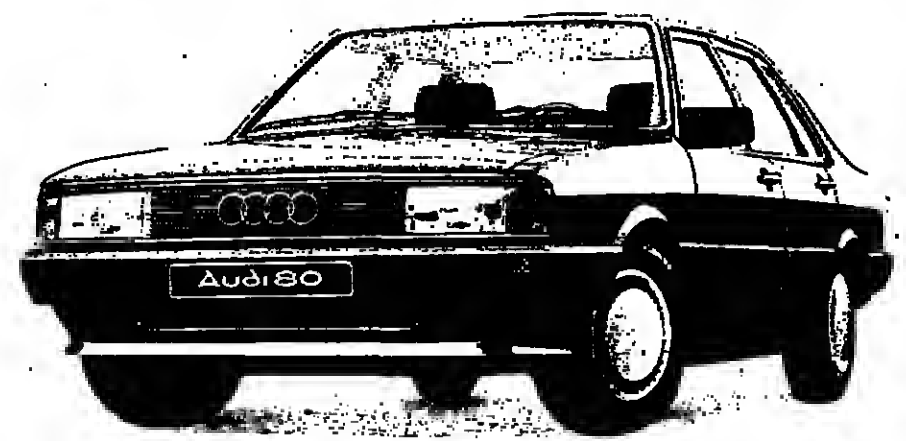
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# A decade of experience should shape future trends in Jordanian economy

By Rami G. Khouri

In the past ten years, the brisk growth of the Jordanian economy, coupled with expanded social services in such fields as education, health and vocational training, has perceptibly increased the standard of living and quality of life of most Jordanians.

But a closer analysis of underlying macro-economic trends suggests that the absolute growth of the economy in the decade since 1975 and the rise in the standard of living of most Jordanians has come at the cost of a more delicate situation in public finance. The country is at an important historical juncture, where private wealth and the individual's access to services have to be assessed against the background of the country's ability to maintain its economic growth in the face of a tightening financial picture and increased government indebtedness.

In the ten years between 1975 and 1985, Jordan's gross domestic product grew from JD 247.3 million to JD 1,523 million, while gross national product, which includes workers' remittances from abroad, increased from JD 279.3 million to JD 1,885 million — an impressive performance by any standard, but particularly in light of Jordan's status as a country of limited material and

financial resources in the centre of a politically and militarily turbulent region.

Jordan's economic growth has relied heavily on sustained flows of money from outside the country, in the form of private remittances, official aid from Arab states, other countries and international lending organisations, private investments from abroad, exports, and tourism receipts.

During the same period, Jordan's budget has consistently relied on foreign aid for between 40-55 per cent of total expenditures, and even more if total security-related expenditures are calculated into the equation, though the trend has been encouragingly towards greater relative reliance on domestic resources.

In 1974, domestic revenues, at JD 65.7 million, accounted for 47 per cent of total budget expenditures. In 1984, domestic revenues (JD 438 million) accounted for 58.6 per cent of government expenditures.

A breakdown of gross domestic product — the total value of goods and services generated within the country — indicates that productive sectors have only increased their contribution to GDP by a slight amount. In 1974, the sectors of agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, man-

ufacturing, electricity, water supply and construction contributed JD 90.6 million of the country's GDP at factor cost of JD 242.4 million, or 37.3 per cent. In 1984, the corresponding figure was 38.4 per cent of GDP at factor cost, suggesting that Jordan's hopes of transforming its services dominated economy into a production-dominated one is moving ahead extremely slowly — if at all.

Indeed, if one assesses the contribution to GDP of only the agriculture, mining and manufacturing sectors, the trend is reversed. These three sectors accounted for 29 per cent of GDP in 1974, but only 28.3 per cent in 1984.

On the positive side, though, has been the clear pattern of heavy capital expenditures during the past decade. As much of this investment by the public and private sectors has been in infrastructural projects, industry, agriculture, housing, transport and human services, the Jordanian economy would seem well placed to continue growing in the near future.

In 1974-5-6, the country invested the equivalent of an average of 28 per cent of its gross domestic product in gross fixed capital formation. In the past five years, this has risen to an average of 40 per cent, and reached a high of 48.4 per cent in 1981.

This indicates that even though the economy still relies heavily for sources of finance originated abroad, a substantial part of incoming capital is invested in projects and facilities that will generate new income and provide a base for balanced expansion in the future.



Cement silos at the South Cement Co. which is now part of the Jordan Cement Factories Co. Ltd. (File photo)

One of the worrying trends of the past decade has been the increased level of government debt. In 1974, the government's total foreign debt and government-guaranteed loans was JD 79.8 million, or 32 per cent of GDP. In 1984, the corresponding figure was JD 953 million, or 62.5 per cent of GDP.

As a percentage of GNP, external public debt and government-guaranteed debt has increased in the same period from 28.5 per cent to 50.5 per cent.

While the government's foreign and domestic indebtedness have been rising fast, its gold and foreign exchange reserves have not kept pace. The government's gold and foreign exchange reserves of JD 110 million in 1974 increased to JD 387 million at the end of 1984. Measured in ratios, in 1974 government reserves equalled 137 per cent of external debt, while at the end of 1984 government reserves were

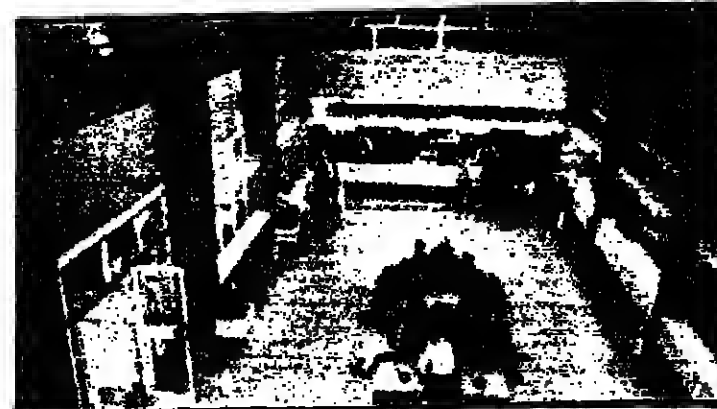
worth only 40.6 per cent of total foreign debt.

The overall economic picture remains relatively healthy, with inflation under control, exports rising, imports holding level or even dropping slightly, and inflows of foreign aid and remittances continuing to bear the burden of financing an economy that is still growing in real terms at a rate of two or three per cent a year.

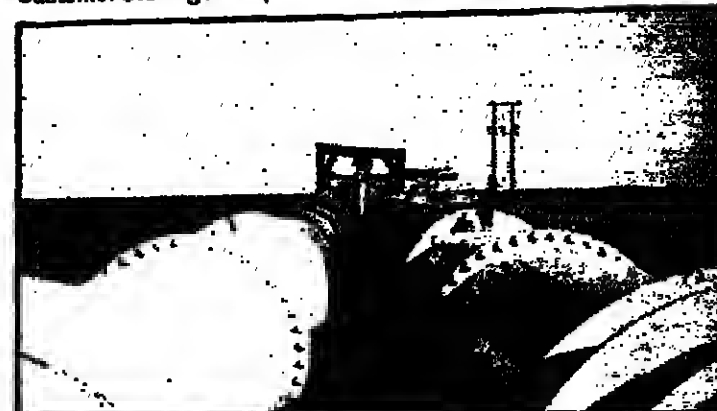
Recent measures taken by the government may help reduce the country's expenditures on imported goods, thereby keeping foreign exchange reserves at reasonable levels. But it remains to be seen if banning some consumer imports will make for a monopoly situation for domestic producers, who might exploit this by raising prices without a parallel rise in quality.

The government's urgent priority now is to curtail expenditure, increase domestic revenues and generally reduce the economy's traditionally heavy reliance on foreign sources of financing.

In the coming years, the country should start to benefit from the huge investments made in export-oriented industries during the past decade, notably potash, phosphate, chemical fertiliser and cement. When these industries reach their full capacity, and international commodity prices pull out of



Customer's lounge in a prominent bank (File photo)



Potash being carried to Arab Potash Co. factories in Dead Sea area (File photo)

their present low cycle, Jordan may earn up to several hundred million dinars more in export revenues.

Jordan's investments in heavy industries have taken longer than expected to generate significant net profits,

however, which suggests that for much of the next decade the country will still have to rely on major financing from abroad, in the form of Arab budget support grants, commercial loans, and developmental aid at concessionary rates.

## Readers see 'excellent insight,' 'outstanding merits' in J.T.

(Continued from page 12)

**Mrs. Ginny Hazou**, a school teacher: I use the Jordan Times for quick current discussions with my three sons. I buy it on the way to school and whoever sits in the front seat reads out the headlines and we talk about them. The crossword keeps me occupied while I wait for the flower on JTV to turn into a comedy.

**Dr. Kamel Assali**, researcher on the history and archaeology of Jerusalem: I am not a regular reader of the Jordan Times but I do read it sometimes. I think it is quite a good newspaper and it covers more news than the other Arabic dailies in Jordan.

**Mrs. Kathleen Bozwell**, a former American broadcaster: The Jordan Times is Jordan's ear to the Middle East and the world. Whatever is happening in Jordan you read it first in the Jordan Times. I particularly like the political reporting. What I do not like, however, is that sometimes political reports seem to be incomplete or probably cut off.

**Mrs. Silvia Ayoubi**, a Swiss housewife: From a European's point of view the Jordan Times is a small newspaper as far as its size is concerned. But it manages to give a very good picture of current national and international events in a good summary which is something I really appreciate.

**Dr. Hanna Halebi**, General Practitioner: I read the Jordan Times on a daily basis and the articles which please me a lot are the archaeology features written by Rami Khouri. I think he has provided readers with comprehensive, analytical and intelligent information and news. Since politics are of no interest to me, I have to start my day by reading my star sign in the newspaper's astrology column and I always pray that whatever is written under Virgo will happen on that day, especially when the forecast is positive. Another daily English language exercise for me is provided by the word-jumble corner. I believe that your sports page is good.

**Mrs. Peggy Abu Jaber**, housewife: I read the Jordan Times every day and I think it is a good newspaper. I particularly enjoy articles on archaeology and news features. But I think that once in a while the main editorial of the newspaper should tackle important international issues, other than the Middle East crisis, such as apartheid in South Africa and other controversial international problems.

**Mr. Zuhair Nasser**, medical engineer: I have nothing against the Jordan Times. The paper is a very informative source of news but would be better if more scientific news was carried.

**Fu'ad Mink**, an artist, designer and television director: We in Jordan are very proud of the Jordan Times and naturally we are delighted at its 10th anniversary. Since the Jordan Times first appeared it has been a blessing for the readers of local, regional and international news and developments. The staff and all workers with the Jordan Times have no doubt been exerting strenuous efforts all these years and have been providing us with worth-while material.

**Abdullah Ahmad Khelil**, lawyer: The Jordan Times contains very informative articles, but I would like more attention to be given to local sports events on page six.

**Meri Nashashibi**, an employee at the Greek Embassy: I appreciate Randa Habib's corner and analytical articles written by Rami Khouri, but the newspaper has to be more objective in carrying news. I recommend that local sport events such as the Amman Little League and soccer matches should be given more coverage. Also, I would suggest more editorials to tackle local issues.

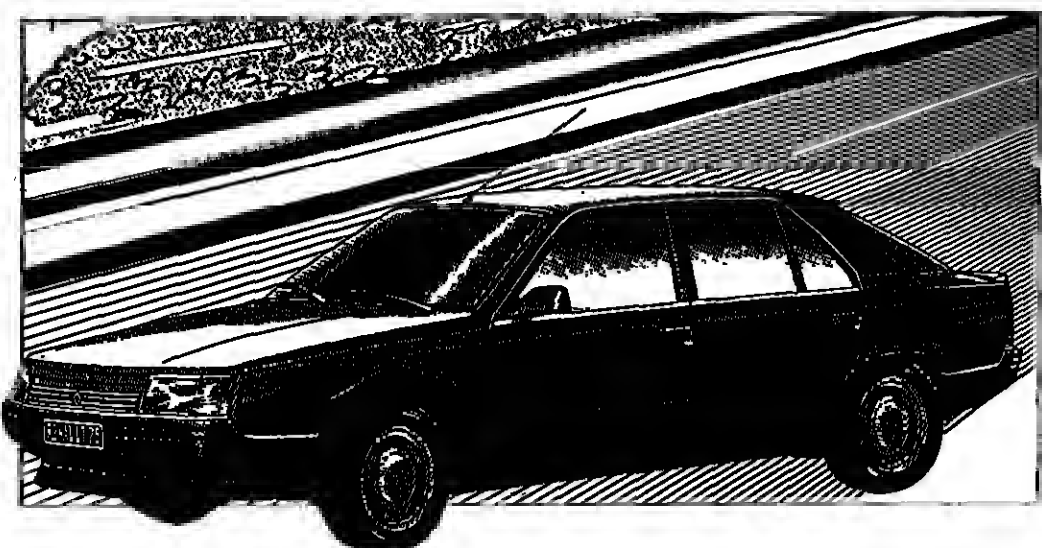
**LL. Emad Ma'alouf**, bio-medical engineer: The Jordan Times is generally very good, but sometimes it is boring regarding the kind of news it carries. I would suggest that more photos are used on all the pages.

**Mr. Reje Kewer**, a landscape designer and contractor: As a bi-lingual reader, I believe that the newspaper has outstanding merits in comparison with the other dailies. I enjoy reading the local articles a lot since I find so much about architecture, art, socio-economic issues and articles of public interest. I eagerly wait for the appearance of columns which are written by intellectual columnists.

**Miss Laila Haddad**, an artist: Catering for the foreign community, the Jordan Times has good coverage of current issues on the local, regional and international levels. The Jordan Times lacks coverage on art and culture.

**Mr. Vicken Dakessian**, a chemical engineer: I am a regular reader of the Jordan Times and would like to see more sports, column eight and socio-economic columns. I understand the importance of running advertisements in the newspaper, but I believe that if you provided an extra advertising page it would be a wise and fair initiative for both the newspaper and its readers. The Jordan Times gives the interested reader an excellent insight into local political developments which are usually not mentioned in the other dailies. Which is something you should be proud of. I would enjoy reading more letters to the editor, but unfortunately our society is very passive.

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## The government and journalists: A tug-of-war

Continued from page 9

Others, such as Mr. Ahmad Shaker, senior editor and reporter at the Arabic daily Al-Dustour, point out that government control over the media in general and the censorship of news in particular is very limited in comparison with the late 1960s and early 1970s. "I believe that the censorship practised by newspaper owners far exceeds that of the official censorship," Mr. Shaker says.

Miss Andoni, who also corresponds to the New York Times, says that local reporters do not have the smallest clue on where self-censorship starts and where government censorship ends. "Sometimes we are afraid to publish stories using self-censorship, but later we realise that we could have published them and vice versa," Miss Andoni states.

She suggests that the concerned public officials should hold regular briefing sessions for all those who work in the media since she believes in the free flow of information. Mr. Kayed agrees with her and says: "Government briefings would also help us tackle the issues from different angles and would help us reflect a clearer and more positive new places."

In a recent lecture on the cultural movement in Jordan, Minister of Information Mohammad Al-Khatib challenged the media to say that he has ever ordered them to censor any news during his term in office.

Mr. Khatib, who took office as minister of information, culture, tourism and antiquities last April, emphasised that news censorship is practised by the "newspaper owners themselves and not by the government." The minister, who was speaking to an audience of mainly journalists and writers, also described the 1973 Press and Publications Law as "lenient and understanding."

Many politicians, journalists and people from all walks of life feel that local newspapers lack investigative and well-researched reports. "Our newspapers in general contain junk, public relations, social news about meaningless events, surrounded by hundreds of ads," says a frustrated and disappointed Jordanian reader who spoke on condition of anonymity.

This negative reaction is expressed by 73 per cent of individuals asked to evaluate the local dailies, says Jordan Times Staff reporter Sa'ad Hattar.

Local reporters feel helpless to change the public's attitude about local journalism because they say that there is a large "information gap" between government sources and reporters.

Mr. Shaker says one obstacle is that government officials try to avoid talking to journalists because they either believe that the information they have is their "private property" or because they claim "it will endanger the country and public's

general interest." Mr. Abssi believes that gathering information depends a lot on an official's mood on a particular day.

### Sacred cows

Mr. Uttom and Miss Farraj say that local reporters are allowed to see and smell news but are prohibited from touching them. Mr. Uttom laughs and describes the relation between news sources and local reporters as similar to the Hindus and "their sacred, untouchable cows."

Mr. Uttom and Miss Andoni are also upset that on occasions local reporters are banned from accompanying officials or talking to them after an important meeting. Instead, reporters have to wait for news dispatches which are transmitted by Petra, the Associated Press, AP, Reuters or other news agencies, says Mr. Uttom.

Miss Andoni explains: "When reporters seek any Jordanian reaction, they have to question the other party members who were present at the meeting although, knowing reactions from the Jordanian side would help us much more in assessing the general situation of any incident and development."

Information Ministry Under Secretary Michael Hamameh denies that officials in Jordan decline to comment on the basis of the reasons given by the reporters. Instead, Mr. Hamameh says that either reporters themselves do not know how to phrase their questions or some of the officials are not very well-informed about the developments raised in the question. "We Arabs usually hate to say we do not know," he says.

In most countries, often the most important or sensitive news becomes published through leaks but in Jordan "leaked information" usually can not be published and local reporters have to wait until the foreign news agencies carry the reports.

Miss Andoni comments that the most frustrating experience in her profession is gathering news and not being able to publish it. "A lot of journalists are not willing to fight for their news any more because they know that what they obtain will only be stored in their brains," she contends.

Despite the lamentations of local journalists on the freedom of the press, Mr. Hamameh appears to be sure that the government will not give the local press more of a free hand until it proves itself capable of coping with this freedom.

### Local vs. foreign journalists

Mr. Shaker has learnt that getting information about local socio-economic and political developments can be done by "beating" around the bush. He

explains that all a local journalist needs to find about important facts and developments could be found in the foreign newspapers, magazines and news agencies which are received in Jordan. He comments: "Probably officials welcome the idea of speaking to foreign correspondents more than to local ones because the foreign media has a wider circulation or audience."

Reporters seem to agree that the obvious discrimination between the local and foreign correspondents has to a great extent affected local journalism. Mr. Hamameh believes that foreign correspondents read much more than they write and that they are more specialised than the local reporters. He explains that a foreign correspondent usually comes to his interview well-prepared and informed and their questions are well-phrased compared to a lot of local reporters who arrive at their interview and say "what news do you have for today." Mr. Hamameh suggests that if a question is well phrased and organised, the more impressive the journalist appears and the more information he will get. He also says that female Jordanian reporters have proved in many cases that they are more sensible than men reporters.

### Proving their credibility

Mr. Hamameh says that a reporter should fight for his career and most important of all he should prove trustworthiness, reliability and credibility, especially in "off the record matters." Yet Mr. Hamameh stresses that all reporters in Jordan are not the same.

Many local reporters say that they are specialised, well-informed and that they are the closest people to local events. It is only Mr. Shaker who believes that the majority of local reporters are not specialised and he suggests that each newspaper should recruit a reporter to cover a certain issue. "I believe that Jack of all trades means master of none," Mr. Shaker says.

Miss Andoni notes that a lot of Amman-based foreign correspondents keep in direct contact with local journalists in order to exchange views and gather information. She says this indicates that local reporters in general are well-informed and are a major source for the foreign media.

"Expanding the role of journalism through providing more work incentives and appreciation needs a lot of financial

support, which the newspapers alone cannot support," Mr. Kayed says.

"Jordanian journalists do not have an international identification card, which they can use in other countries if they happen to go to abroad in order to follow-up on any developments," she says. Local reporters are not supported and backed by the JPA law, Miss Andoni contends.

Mr. Uttom adds that even local journalists who are JPA members have no insurance coverage and therefore are discouraged from covering "dangerous events."

Mr. Kayed says that the association's 1983 law has an article which calls for providing all possible support for any member in case he or she is in trouble. "I can say that we support the reporters as much as we can. But in cases where he or she harms the country's national security, the protection falls beyond our limits," Mr. Kayed comments. JPA members and their families are covered by a medical insurance plan but there is no occupational injury insurance, he says.

Another major and recent development which, many believe, hindered the Jordanian journalists' professional development, was the cabinet's recent circular prohibiting government employees from writing in the media or from corresponding to foreign publications. Mr. Uttom, who has been writing for the Paris-based Al-Wattani Al-Arabi magazine and the Kuwaiti-based newspaper Al-Qabbas, had to stop his foreign correspondence since he works for Petra. Mr. Uttom's case is one example of many Jordanian correspondents who were forced to stop writing for international magazines.

"Now that the private and foreign correspondents are the only privileged ones allowed to write about Jordan, this has harmed us as well as our country since I assume that a patriotic reporter will only try to do his best in reflecting a positive and well-rounded picture about his country's developments," Mr. Uttom says. But the major question of when will the local media be given more freedom, more respect and more attention still remains unanswered.

Mr. Hamameh has made it clear that the local press has to fight harder to gain its freedom, respect and reputation. "Freedom will never come on a silver platter," he says. "It is only after the press proves itself, that the government will reward it and give it more freedom."

## Bloomers, bloopers and good faith

By John Boteler

with other members of the staff

ONE of the main reasons that people read the Jordan Times is that it has a refreshing approach to news stories.

Indeed, many a time it "scopes" the rest of the world press with stories of international significance. On March 13 of this year, it was the only paper that informed its readers that doctors had found "a benign polyp" in President Reagan's colon. Subsequent events have proved this to be unfounded (some have claimed that the object in question was in fact a polyp), but Jordan Times reporters and editors are never dissuaded by mere facts.

The world-renowned English magazine, Private Eye, kept faith with our original coverage of this story, and they were also glad to reprint another story of ours that Pope John Paul II had "beautified" a South American nun.

Detractors say that his action was one of "beatification" but then even we have our enemies.

In another instance, dogged investigative work produced the startling and disturbing fact, reported on Jan. 8 of this year, that France was experiencing its worst snowfall "since 1984." Further investigations into the successful cover-up of this information is under way and should be completed by early 1986.

What other newspaper was brave enough to inform you, as we did last year, of the harsh, and doubtless deserved, penalty meted out to a man convicted of smuggling a "heroine" across the border?

As a standard bearer of law and order the very same page three (the exact date cannot be confirmed owing to the sinister disappearance of file copies from the period concerned), announced that police had discovered an important clue to a murder, in the form of a man's body hanging from the ceiling.

It is not only in the reporting of news that the Jordan Times breaks new ground. Their pioneering work also extends to advertising, in particular those ads aimed at foreigners with a limited grasp of English. "Are you forin and looking for work?" we asked last year, and were overwhelmed by applicants for jobs in our proof-reading and editorial posts.

An original campaign aimed at recruiting readers from the non-English-speaking Arab population of Jordan (printing certain ads back to front, or even reversing the page order in the paper), sadly had to be discontinued owing to a lack of response.

Another first was our decision to print the paper without a date-line. This was brought about by an attempt to ensure that nobody could accuse us of printing items that were out-of-date. Unfortunately, no one on the staff can remember when this occurred. But it did.

In 1981, concerned at the results of a survey which indicated that some readers only glanced at pages briefly without fully absorbing the information, the Jordan Times experimented by printing both page three and page seven twice, but unfortunately the response was not all that was hoped for.

Hindsight would suggest that the omission of pages four and five to facilitate this experiment was a mistake, but it was nonetheless gratifying to discover that our readers are more thorough in following world events than the original survey suggested.

Admittedly the Jordan Times does occasionally make mistakes. None of us is infallible. Some of these mistakes, however, are occasioned by proof-reading errors brought about by pressures of deadlines. (My own TV column has suffered from this in the past). Sometimes it's only a small thing, like announcing that UNRWA's budget deficit was \$20 billion, rather than \$20 million.

Other examples of bungling things are rather more serious, such as the time, (1983), when Rama Rao, the Indian opposition leader, suffered the indignity of having his photograph printed upside down.

We did receive a phone call congratulating us for this, but since the caller spoke with an Australian accent we could derive no real satisfaction from it.

The embarrassing moment when we mixed up the captions beneath photographs of Presidents Carter and Reagan was negligible compared to the time when we wrote — in a headline — Haram Al Sharif as Hamman Al Sharif. (For those who do not know, Hamman is the Arabic word for bath, Haram means sanctity. A notable proof-reading error occurred when our description of the United States as "leading today in the field of human rights" was changed so that it read "leading on Tuesday...")

Sometimes we even aspire to a very dull form of humour, as when one of us, tired from his other jobs translated from a news item in Arabic a few months ago that "the Ministry

of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has sent a cable from Medina saying that all Jordanian pilgrims are well and in good health except for one who is dead." The clever editor of page 3 spotted the error in time, and luckily it never appeared in the newspaper.

Not even the Royal Family is safe from the singular style of the Jordan Times. Earlier this year, reporting on a conference held at the Al Al-Bait Foundation, we captioned a photograph of His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan meeting with Islamic Scholars. Unfortunately the picture showed them meeting a group of Christian priests who attended the opening of the Islamic meeting.

More recently we reported that "Her Majesty Queen Noor telephoned the King Hussein Medical City to wish the heart transplant patient a 'near' recovery." Evidently, the people in charge of the newspaper that night did not know what they were doing.

But perhaps our most embarrassing mistake occurred in

1978, when a obituary on a leading Jordanian figure was adorned with a photograph, not of the individual concerned, but of a baboon. Much as we would like to forget this tragic episode entirely, it has to be acknowledged that it was only the generosity and good humour of the gentleman's family that allowed the Jordan Times to continue publishing, and to bring its faithful readers those stories that lesser rags are not even aware of.

The mistakes will continue to be made, we are afraid. We are only human. But, on the tenth anniversary of the newspaper, we would like to reassure our readers is that every effort is being made to avoid all and every kind of error that appear in newspapers generally.

Because of the many mistakes that appear in it, the Guardian of London is often called the "Grauniad" or "Guarnaid" by even the most faithful of its readers. So, dear readers of the Jordan Times "Jordan Smite," if you like, but only as long as you continue reading us.

## Congratulations

THIS NEWSPAPER would like to play its small part in the development of Jordan, and we feel that one of the contributions we can make is to point out cases of behaviour that deserve either special merit or scorn, as the case may be. Today, we would like to institute a tradition of awarding an annual prize to what we judge to be among the worst run institutions in the country. The award, to be called the Jordan Times Award for Incompetence Beyond the Call of Duty, will only be given to services in the public sector, on the assumption that what private companies do is their own business. The 1980 Jordan Times Award for Incompetence Beyond the Call of Duty is herewith given to the people in charge of the parking lot at Amman civil airport. We are vague about who the people are because, frankly, we do not know who is legally and formally in charge of the parking lot. What we do know, however, is that it is perhaps the best living example of the monumental chaos that can be generated, day after day, when man and machine are thrown into a working relationship for which neither is prepared. The trouble is that most people only go to the airport occasionally, and forget about the parking lot's extraordinary pandemonium after they leave the airport. Therefore a mess is perpetuated, and few people seem able or willing to improve the sad matter, thereby aggravating an already disgraceful situation. Jordan deserves better than this.

The above editorial appeared in the Jordan Times in December 1980 to complain about the traffic situation at the old Amman Airport before the Queen Alia International Airport was built.

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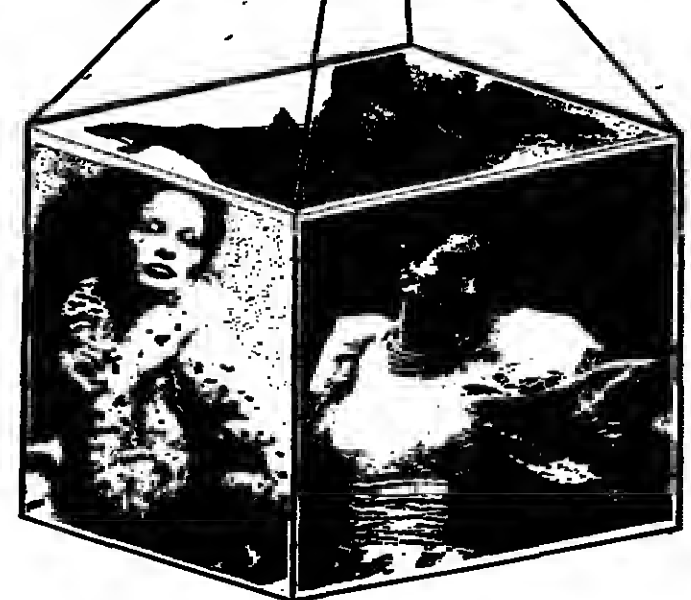
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## 16 The people behind the Jordan Times



George S. Hawatmeh, took over the editorship of the Jordan Times from Rami Khouri in March 1983. He started in journalism in 1981 as a part-time sub-editor. He went on to become full-time chief sub-editor, managing editor and acting editor until he was elected by the Jordan Press Foundation board of directors as editor-in-chief of the Jordan Times. Mr. Hawatmeh's main interest lies in writing on political issues, especially the Middle East, but also in editing the Jordan Times which is devoted to covering news and comments of the Jordanian scene.

Prior to journalism, Mr. Hawatmeh's career started at the Jordan Civil Aviation Authority as budget director of the Queen Noor Civil Aviation and served as its chief administrator before taking up the stewardship of the Jordan Times.

Mr. Hawatmeh has a B.Sc. in nuclear engineering from Queen Mary College, University of London. He also joined Pennsylvania State University on a Ph.D. nuclear engineering programme, but he had to abandon the programme for personal reasons. He later joined an MBA course at the University of California at Northridge, but again he had to return to Jordan for personal reasons. He enjoys reading and travelling at ease. Mr. Hawatmeh was born in Zarqa, Jordan on Dec. 7, 1952.



C.V. Mohan started his career as a proof-reader in 1969 with one of the leading English newspapers in India after his college education. He joined the Jordan Times in 1979 as a proof-reader. Off and on he has been standing in for sub-editors of all pages except page one. He occasionally writes for the Jordan Times. In addition to the Jordan Times, he works as an editor for books on a freelance basis.

At present, Mr. Mohan is working as the Jordan Times' production manager.

Mr. Mohan, born in Kerala, India, on Oct. 5, 1948, lives in Amman with his wife and a three-and-a-half-year-old daughter.



Rami G. Khouri, was the Jordan Times' first editor-in-chief from 1975-79 and 1981-82, with a two-year leave in between to write a book on the Jordan Valley. Currently, Mr. Khouri is also senior editor and columnist at the Jordan Times, an author/photographer and Jordan correspondent for the Financial Times newspaper (London) and the Boston Globe newspaper (Boston, USA).

He started in journalism as a general reporter and page editor at the Daily Star newspaper, in Beirut, Lebanon (1971-72), then he became managing editor at the Middle East Sketch Magazine in Beirut and a weekly columnist for the Daily Star. Later he became managing editor of the Beirut-based Middle East Money Bulletin (1974-75). In 1983, Mr. Khouri lectured in journalism and mass communications department at the Yarmouk University.

From 1975-1985, Mr. Khouri has written regularly from Jordan for the Financial Times, the Washington Post, the Boston Globe, the International Herald Tribune, McGraw Hill World News Service, Euromoney Magazine (London), the Middle East Magazine (London), Aramco World Magazine, Jordan Magazine, Archaeology Magazine (New York), British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) and the Banker Magazine (London).



Simonetta Carr joined the Jordan Times in September 1984 on a freelance basis, reporting on medical and social welfare development in Jordan.

As part of her journalism career, she used to work as a freelancer for the Italy-based Cosmopolitan magazine and the Thailand-based Bangkok Post and the "Living in Thailand" magazine.

Ms. Carr graduated from a teachers training college in Milan, Italy. She also holds a certificate of English-Italian-English translation and a certificate of English language proficiency from the University of Cambridge. Ms. Carr was born in Milan, Italy in 1954.



Elia Nasaralla (Abu Nader), has witnessed the Jordan Times' evolution since he joined it in 1975 as a translator/ editor. Now, Abu Nader is the Jordan Times' managing editor. Abu Nader has also worked as a teacher, and a news editor for Radio Jordan and Jordan Television English language programmes for 15 years.

Abu Nader completed his high school education at West Bank schools and he also attended the University of Damascus. Abu Nader was born in Haifa, Palestine, Feb. 14, 1936.



Lamis K. Andoni joined the Jordan Times as a staff reporter in October 1982. She also wrote for the Guardian newspaper from March 84 until March 85. Currently Miss Andoni strings for the London-based Middle East International and the New York Times newspapers.

Miss Andoni covered part of the conflict between pro and anti-Arafat factions in Tripoli, north Lebanon in 1983. She also was among the first batch of journalists who reached the Majnoon Islands in 1984 when the Iraqi army recaptured parts of the islands from the Iranians. She covered the Casablanca Arab summit in August 1985.

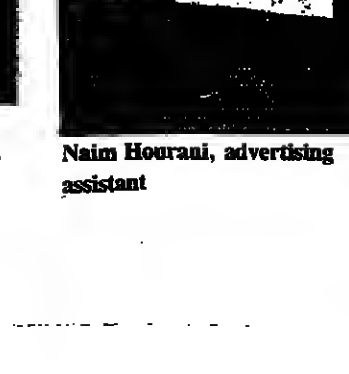
Miss Andoni finished her high school education from the National Orthodox School in Amman in 1975, studied the Russian language and political economy at the University of Donetsk in Ukraine, the USSR, from 1975-1977. In 1979 she left for the U.S., from where she graduated with a B.A. degree in political science from the University of California, Irvine, in 1982. Miss Andoni was born in Amman on June 12, 1956.



Bill Cordes, 25, joined the staff of the Jordan Times in mid-September as sports editor. An aspiring writer, Mr. Cordes also contributes news and feature stories to the newspaper. He graduated from Northwestern University in 1982 and is currently a Masters' candidate in Arab studies at Georgetown University. Mr. Cordes was born in Cleveland, Ohio, USA, Dec. 25, 1959.



John Boteler graduated from St. Peter's College, Oxford, in 1976. Mr. Boteler started writing for the Jordan Times in January 1985 and is the newspaper's TV critic. Mr. Boteler was born in London on Sept. 30, 1954.



Dr. Franz Schurmann: Professor Franz Schurmann teaches history and sociology at the University of California-Berkeley and is also co-founder and editor of the Pacific News Service. He wrote several books, like the logic of the World Power and the Politics of Escalation, and is a noted commentator on world affairs. He speaks several European languages fluently as well as several Chinese dialects and has recently taken up Arabic. He started writing for the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i on Feb. 1983.



It was after trying his hand at almost every trade in the world that P.V. Vivekanand, our page one editor and chief sub-editor, joined us as a proof-reader in 1980. Apparently, he found his elements in journalism and, in one of the most impressive uphill climbs, "Anand" took over page one in less than nine months after joining the Jordan Times.

He is also a leading staff writer and contributes regular articles to the paper. Apart from being the Jordan correspondent of a foreign news agency, he also writes for several specialised trade magazines based in London and Singapore.

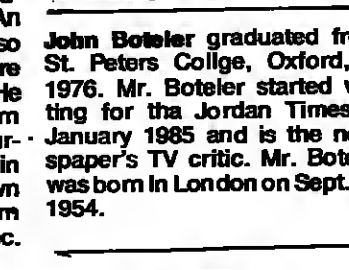
Born in India in 1952, Anand now lives in Amman with his wife and a six-month-old son, Anoop.



Salameh B. Ne'mat completed his high school education from College de la Salle in Amman in 1979. Mr. Ne'mat obtained a degree in public administration from a U.S. University. He is currently on a six-month scholarship in the U.S. Before joining the Jordan Times in 1983 he worked as a sales manager at the Jordan Public Relations Agency and later as a sales executive at the Amman Regency Palace Hotel. Mr. Ne'mat was born in Amman in 1961.



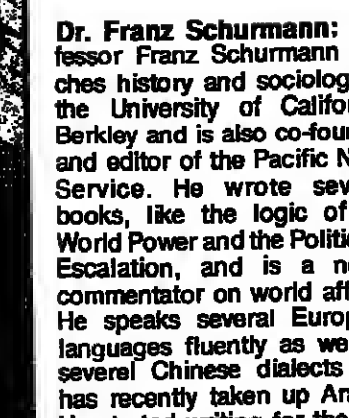
Najwa Najjar joined the Jordan Times as a freelance reporter in October 1985. Miss Najjar graduated from San Diego State University in California in June 1985 with a B.A. in political science and economics after attending schools in Riyadh, Rome, Athens and London. Miss Najjar was born in Washington, D.C., on July 31, 1963.



Randa Habib's bi-weekly column started to appear in the Jordan Times in April 1981. But Ms. Habib's journalistic career started while she was attending St. Joseph University in Beirut in 1970, as she started writing for the Lebanese daily Le Jour and later for the "Magazine" and "Le Soir".

She came to Amman in 1973 and joined the Ministry of Information Press Section (1973-75). She wrote a weekly column called "Houna Amman" at the weekly "Ousbou Al Arabi" and continued to write for the "Magazine".

She is serving as the Amman correspondent for Agence France Presse (AFP) since 1980. Ms. Habib was born in Beirut on Jan. 16, 1951.



Josephine Zananiri, born in 1949, joined the Jordan Times on a freelance basis in March 1985 as a reporter covering architecture, tourism and women affairs. Ms. Zananiri taught English in Beirut and at the Orthodox School in Amman and she used to work for the Jerusalem Star on a freelance basis.

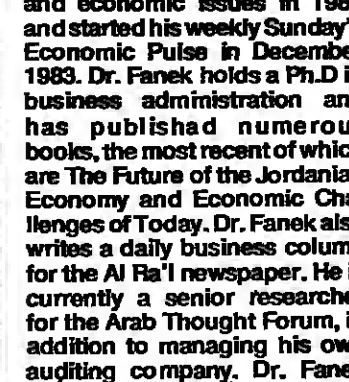
She graduated in sociology from the Swinburn Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Australia. Ms. Zananiri has also written a book on Jordan for tourists called the "Travellers Guide to Jordan."



Our Middle East and World news editor Ara Voskian 32, has been with us since 1982, when he joined the Jordan Times staff as a world news editor. During his four years at the newspaper, he also worked as a staff reporter. Ara, born in Jerusalem on April 23, 1953, lives in Amman with his wife.



Faded N. Faneh, began contributing articles on business and economic issues in 1981 and started his weekly Sunday's Economic Pulse in December 1983. Dr. Faneh holds a Ph.D. in business administration and has published numerous books, the most recent of which are The Future of the Jordanian Economy and Economic Challenges of Today. Dr. Faneh also writes a daily business column for the Al Ra'i newspaper. He is currently a senior researcher for the Arab Thought Forum, in addition to managing his own auditing company. Dr. Faneh was born in Jordan on April 13, 1934.



Sa'ad G. Hattar, one of our staff reporters, completed his high school studies from College de la Salle in Amman. He studied medicine in France after school but abandoned the course due to personal reasons. Later, he obtained a three-year civil engineering degree from a local college.

After Mr. Hattar completed his two-year army service, he joined the Jordan Times first on a freelance basis and was later appointed as a staff reporter. Mr. Hattar was born in Amman on Aug. 31, 1961.



Marwan Jamil Muasher, was born in Amman on June 14, 1956. He attended the American University of Beirut from 1972 to 1976, but later left for the United States where he obtained a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Purdue University in 1981. He worked in Saudi Arabia for two years as a researcher at the University of Petroleum and Minerals, and is presently working with the Ministry of Planning in Jordan in the computer field.

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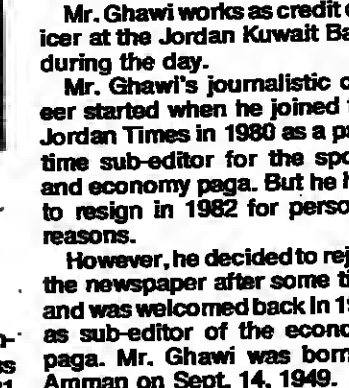
Monika Warich, born in Frankfurt in 1953, joined the Jordan Times in January 1985 as a freelance reporter covering developmental projects, environmental issues, water management and hydrology and West German-Jordanian relations.

Ms. Warich graduated from Goethe University in Frankfurt with an M.A. in geography with English literature and general education as minor.



Anne Counsell joined the newspaper in October 1982 as a reporter covering social issues and development in Jordan. She became editor of page three in June 1984. Ms. Counsell is also correspondent for several newspapers and magazines in the U.S. and England. She also contributes to other publications on a freelance basis.

Anne, born in Zambia in 1960, is married to American photographer Bill Lyons and they have a seven-week-old baby daughter, Thea.



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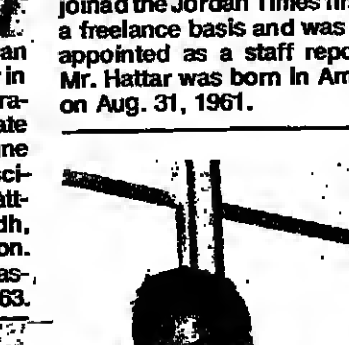
Miss Sabbagh was born in Amman on May 1, 1963.



Olga Mikhael, completed her high school education at the National Protestant College in Beirut, Lebanon. She later enrolled at the American University of Beirut from where she graduated in 1982 with a B.A. in political science and public administration. Having had enough of the endless Lebanese civil war, Olga decided to come to Amman and to seek a good job opportunity.

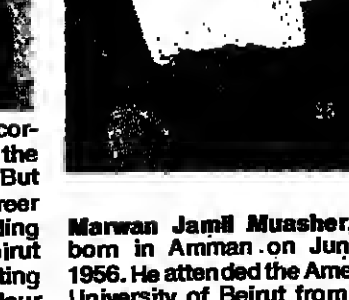
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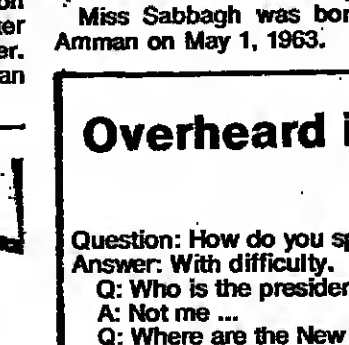
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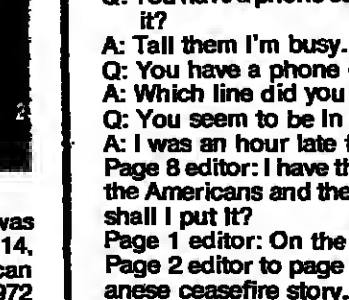
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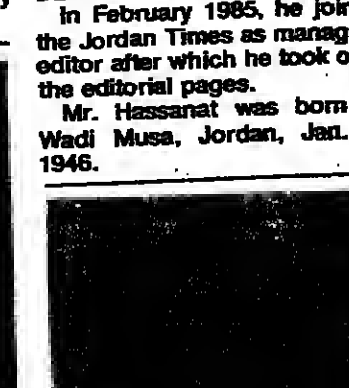
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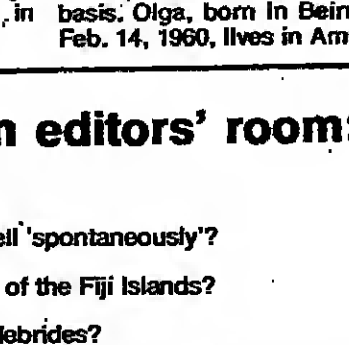
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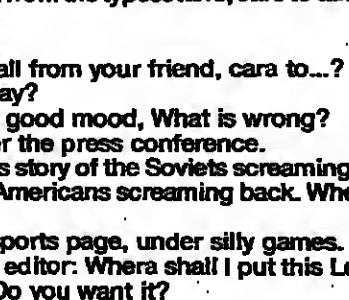
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## Overheard in editors' room:

Question: How do you spell 'spontaneously'?

Answer: With difficulty.

Q: What is the president of the Fiji Islands?

A: Not me.

Q: Where are the New Hebrides?

A: Check the atlas.

Q: Did you use the AIDS (story on your page)?

A: I could do without it.

Q: Where do I jump 40 centimetres (space for continued story)?

A: Out of the window.

Q: Do you capitalise 'Star Wars'?

A: If you have doubts, skip the words.

Q: You have a phone call from the typesetters, care to take it?

A: Tell them I'm busy.

Q: You have a phone call from your friend, cara to...?

A: Which line did you say?

Q: You seem to be in a good mood, What is wrong?

A: I was an hour late for the press conference.

Page 8 editor: I have this story of the Soviets screaming at the Americans and the Americans screaming back. Where shall I put it?

Page 1 editor: On the sports page, under silly games.

Page 2 editor to page 1 editor: Where shall I put this Lebanese ceasefire story. Do you want it?

A: Put it on column 8.

Editor: I can't get this headline right, care to help?

A: Try it from the left.

Reporter: I will be back with the story at 7.30, Okay?

Editor: Thank you for the warning.

Editor: How long is your story going to be?

Reporter: Not less than 3,000 (words). How much can you take?

Editor: Less than 300.

Reporter: Please don't cut the story at the end, the most important part is at the end.

Editor: Were you sleeping in the beginning?

Reporter: Why did you cut my story?

Editor: I should have cut out your byline.

Editor: This story is no good. I want it rewritten.

Reporter: Well, you type faster than me.

Reporter: Good morning.

Editor: It was good until you turned up.

Reporter: Good evening.

Editors: Shut up.

Editor: How come you missed the most vital point in the speech?

Reporter: I was driving when I wrote the story.

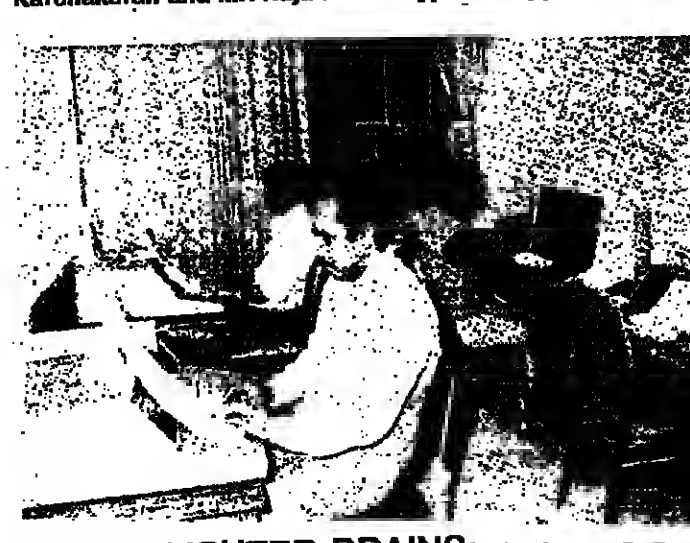
Editor: How come you are dressed up and look smart today?

Reporter: I think television will cover the press conference.

Page 8 editor to page 1 editor: I have this story on a convict climbing the stairs of the gallows. You can update it on your page.

Compiled by P. V. Vivekanand

HUNTING ERRORS: Our proof readers Mr. Karunakaran and Mr. Rajan check typeset copy



OUR COMPUTER BRAINS: Mr. James G. Pereira (right), Mr. Gulab P. Sayed (left) and Mr. Matthew Venugan at work in our computer room.



# Romancing its tenth anniversary



## Talking straight Marwan Muasher

On the Jordan Times' tenth anniversary, I thought I would share with you today some of my personal experiences with the paper and the people behind it.

I cannot remember what made me decide to take up writing on a regular basis. It is just about the farthest thing from my professional field, computer engineering. Beside those semi-manifestations of the English language called engineering term papers and other than some emotional letters to the editor in the local university paper, I had done little writing before.

Fate, in its infinite wisdom, however, convinced our young friend, fresh out of college and desperately looking for a job,

that he should take up writing and solve the problems of the world. And so it was that on an August afternoon in 1982, I was introduced to Rami Khouri, then the editor-in-chief, and George Hawatmeh, then the managing editor, by way of an active reporter who went to college with me, Samira Kassar. They were extremely polite, although the answers I gave them when they asked me what I wanted to write about were not very assuring. Of course, I was not very assured either by their age. I had expected to meet much older people, and I certainly did not expect the editor-in-chief to wear such a thick beard. That touch of youth has continued to characterize the J.T. staff, and it is one that makes working at the J.T. both a pleasant and dynamic affair.

At any rate, I never could tell what went on in Rami's and George's minds when they accepted a computer engineer to write about socio-political issues on a trial basis. Later, I did not feel too bad after learning about George's nuclear engineering background. Now that is what I call a fission — or a fusion — of careers.

I wrote six articles for the J.T. as a guest columnist, of which one was rejected by Rami. That was my first introduction to real life in writing. Finally, "I was to be initiated into a full-time part-time job as a regular columnist. I was to have a picture and a title for my column. That, however, did not prove too easy a task.

After searching through my photo albums for the umpteenth time, I could not find a better picture than one taken at my graduation party in the U.S. It was taken at a time when I was not in the best of shapes, but I thought it had to do. You may want to take another look

at it now. A graduation party photo for you.

I came one afternoon to a Margie Bryant, who did page 5 at the time, with my photo and a title. "I want to call it 'Straight Talk'." I said. Margie pondered for a moment and replied, "Talking Straight." I like that. Before I had a chance to object to the distortion of my idea, I decided that the distortion sounded better than the original. And so "Talking Straight" first saw the light on Saturday, Feb. 12, 1983 with this prologue: "Beginning a fortnightly commentary — sometimes serious, sometimes lighthearted — on current issues of human and social concern..." Since then, sixty-two Talking Straights have been published, including this one. Another six were "spiked" for "various" reasons.

The atmosphere at the J.T. is one of the best I have seen in any work environment. Of course, it is easy for me to say, having no regular desk there. The others who are subjected to eight hours of George's yelling might think otherwise. But I have always made it a point to drop by the newspaper at least once a week and chat with the people there.

Indeed, it is difficult to write about the J.T. without writing about the people behind it. First, there is Rami, whom I hold great respect for, although I wish he would write more on local politics. There is nothing that takes out a day's frustration more than arguing with George over his refusal to publish an article. George is not one to give an explicit compliment, yet he has his own way of telling you he appreciates your work.

I've had four different page editors since I started writing for the paper, and yet people tell me I cannot hold a steady

job (elsewhere, that is). Margie was very proper, very British. Ara Voskian, who is still at the paper, is a man of extremes. He either loved my articles or thought I was shamelessly applying self-censorship. Issam Al-Tall (who edited my article for nearly two years) is one of the kindest people I've met, and I really miss his presence at the paper. Abdallah Hassan, my current editor, is a low-key person who nevertheless always lets you know where he stands on issues. I always like to listen to what he has to say.

This is not to forget other page editors at the paper. It took me a long time to talk to Annie Counsell (page 3), who is an extremely sweet and pleasant face, and is really a nice person. One cannot forget the ever cynical Samir Jouanah (ex-editor of page 6), who would not listen to my pleas of including American sports in his page on the feeble excuse that the Associated Press (AP) machine is always broken. Our other Samir (Ghaw) is a professional who does his job quietly and efficiently.

You can always spot Elia Nassrallah, better known as Abu Nader, behind his typewriter, deeply involved in a story or a translation. He always has enough time, however, to tell a cynical story on events in town.

And last but not least, there is the dean of us all, P.V. Vivanand, or just Anand, who takes the paper evidently mistakenly for home. I don't recall ever going to the J.T. and not finding him there. I am yet to talk to him on the phone and guess he is not an Arab.

And then there are the reporters. Lamin Andoni always reminds me that there is someone more hyperactive than myself. I wish we have more reporters in Jordan possessing

her dedication and energy. Salamah Ne'mat is so ever cool and yet hard-working. Sa'ad Hattar is so friendly and confident. And Rana Sabbagh is so warm and eager to find new stories and new angles.

There is also our friendly operator and premises manager Abu-Muhammad, whose simplicity and down-to-earthness have a lot to offer.

And then there is myself, among of course several other columnists, writers and freelance reporters who do not actually physically live at the Jordan Times. This is one of the rare opportunities one gets to expose a bit of oneself. I am not going to pass it up.

Few people know I wrote most of my earlier articles while working in Saudi Arabia (March 83 — June 84). Looking back at them, I can see a gradual change in style and emphasis. Some like to call it maturity, but I prefer the word growing up. My recent articles are definitely more in touch with the Jordanian society, and deal less with abstracts. I like to think.

There was a time when I dared to think that my articles would change the world. Now I am more realistic and would settle for changing Jordan. But the boyish enthusiasm that accompanied the publication of every article as it appeared in the paper never faded. I still feel, as I read a particular article, that I have hit the jackpot in discussing a certain issue. Conceited? May be, but frank!

The other side of the coin, however, is that there were frustrations as well. At times, the existing conditions that prevented the use of certain articles of mine left me demoralized and in doubt about the whole writing process. At others, the pressure was more internal, when I

felt I had said what I wanted to say and that there were no more issues I wanted to discuss in writing.

Moments as these were always short-lived, however. I have come to realize that there are always issues to discuss, and that it is better to write and bring out these issues, even if the articles are edited or sometimes suppressed, than not to write at all.

On the Jordan Times' tenth anniversary, I am not going to look for inflated words of praise. I do not mean or are not true. The Jordan Times, as well as all our other newspapers in town, have a long way to go before they can claim credible reporting and analysis. There is a lot to be said about the freedom of press in Jordan, or the lack of it, and its role in hindering our newspapers' growth.

But this much I will say of the Jordan Times. Of all our newspapers, it is the only one I turn to whenever I want to know what really (or approximately at least) happened. And I miss it when I do not get the chance to read it.

"The highest reward for a man's toil," someone said, "is not what he gets for it, but rather what he becomes by it." This summarizes my personal feelings about the J.T. As critical as I usually am about the quality of our newspapers, I can say with pride that in its extremely short ten years of existence, the Jordan Times' highest reward has been its ability to stand out as the most serious, non-nonsense newspaper in Jordan.

Today, the greatest tribute to the Jordan Times is not that it has provided us with the elation of reaching the ten-year mark, but in the moments of joy we have daily picked along the way.

## Randa Habib's Corner

### Tenth Anniversary Special

AS IT is the Jordan Times' tenth anniversary, I thought it appropriate to take advantage of the ambience of feast at the paper and say a few things I can't say in a normal corner.

Well, in fact I should not complain very much. After all, most of my corners are published. And when occasionally I receive a call from my editor (and friend) who tells me: "Randa, that corner is too sensitive..." he puts it so nicely that I find myself agreeing with him — not that it would make much difference if I didn't.

I remember a corner I wrote about Colonel Miammar Qadhafi after the Israeli raid on the PLO's headquarters in Tunis on Oct. 1. I thought then that I should pass along a message to the Libyan leader. But my editor didn't, so you never saw that corner.

Sometimes, perhaps because I also write about political events in my work with the French News Agency, I am tempted to express some political views in my corner. Once again, my editor intervenes: "Randa, keep the character of your corner, avoid politics."

Easy to say. But when you live in a politically-charged region like the Middle East, it is very difficult to stay calm and apolitical. Occasionally my corners were not published on their assigned days and appeared the day before or after. I had to give a call to the then editor of page five, who would apologise and say "God, I forgot it again..."

In the page five editor's credit, for some time now the corners have appeared as they should, every Monday and Thursday. For me this is something to celebrate on the J.T.'s Tenth Anniversary. I hope it is for you too.

Another technical problem I sometimes face with the Jordan Times is printing errors that affect the meaning of what I want to say. I remember in the corner about the price of imported flowers in Jordan, I pointed out that one orchid is sold for "ten J.D." The cost was published as "one JD". You will notice I avoid using numerals even now.

If you remember that the corner's title was "What a Price for Flowers" you would realise that the difference between ten and one JD was important.

When I asked the editor to publish a correction, he told me "We don't correct columns usually. Serious mistakes, yes. But not numerals in your corners, Randa."

Not very glorious for the newspaper, is it? But again, I should not complain. After all, the Jordan Times has accepted very courageously the idea of my corner and backed me all the way, as I know they will continue to do in the future.

And most of all, they play fair in this newspaper. The publishing of this article is proof of that, I hope. Wouldn't you agree? Happy Tenth Anniversary, Jordan Times editors. Keep up the good work.

## Paris designers stress female form

By Barbara Bright Reuter

plaids and stripes in cowboy style jackets, full skirts and bustier-topped dresses.

PARIS — Paris designers are launching a new look for 1986 that puts the emphasis on the female body and marks a dramatic return to the shapes of the 40's set by film stars like Rita Hayworth and Lana Turner.

The layered look and Japanese ragamuffin trends are out, making way for cinched waists, accentuated hips and bare backs and midriffs shown as part of the spring/summer ready-to-wear collections.

Paris manufacturers seem confident that, far from offending feminist customers, women of the 80's who seek to sculpt the body beautiful will be happy to flaunt it in body-hugging dresses, pants and tops.

Designer Chantal Thomass' collection on view at the Tuileries included dresses in knit lurex, some with the sweater top joined to a miniskirt by rhinestone tabs in a classy punk look, others trimmed at sleeves and neckline with gold spangles.

She presented bright colours in separates, setting exuberant floral prints together with gingham,

According to the French Federation for Ready-To-Wear Collections, sales in France and for export last year totalled 2.2 billion francs (\$268.2 million). Sales of licensed French designs around the world amounted to 15 billion francs (\$1.8 billion), with women's ready-to-wear responsible for 35 per cent of the worldwide sales.

## Channel 6 preview Ten years on

By J.H. Boteler

IT WAS a tough assignment. The boss had called me in, and was studying me through hooded eyes over the stacks of foreign newsprint. Silence hung in the air, broken only by the click of his worry beads sliding through his fingers. "How's your pulse-rate?" he suddenly snapped. "Fine," I answered, wondering where all this was leading to. "Good," he said, though in truth he did not look too pleased. "It'll need to be. I'll come straight to the point. We've got our tenth anniversary coming up, and we, or rather I, want articles comparing then to today, a retrospective of the last decade." I immediately protested: "But I wasn't even here two years ago, let alone ten." A smile flickered across his lips. "Tough. That's your problem. Just write it. Deadline tomorrow. Close the door on your way out. I was almost out of the room when he spoke again. "If it's any help, you could try the cellar. By the way, how's your pulse rate now?" It was a lot worse, but I wasn't about to tell him that.

At first I couldn't see how the cellar could be any help. Apart from old, discarded front pages, "Nixon to be impeached," "Kuwait win 1982 World Cup", there didn't seem to be anything there about television. Then, from behind a small door at the back of the room, I heard a strange scratching sound. The door took some opening because of the dust and cobwebs, but eventually I forced it, to reveal an incredible sight. A man, his youth long fled, was sitting at a table, scribbling with a quill pen on a ragged piece of paper; on the table, a small black and white portable was showing an old episode of "The Partridge Family." It was a shock: I thought that David Cassidy had faded into obscurity years ago. Then, as I looked at this strange man more closely, I felt a quickening of interest. Flared jeans, tie-dyed T-shirt, platform shoes, and a bouffant hairstyle. He had mid-seventies written all over him. "Who are you?" I asked, hardly daring to hope that I had hit pay-dirt. "First TV critic for the Jordan Times," he croaked. This was it. "I didn't know they had a TV critic then," I asked. He smiled: "Oh, yes. But you see, I was scheduled for page seven, but as the earlier editions only ran to six pages, not many people read my stuff. But what programmes we had then." "Oh, yeah?" I answered, since I doubted his grasp of reality after being cooped up in this cupboard for ten years. "Tell me about them."

"Well, for a start, programmes began at 6:30 with cartoons, like Top Cat, then continued with Walt Disney, Flipper, Shane or The Ghost and Mrs. Muir. Then there was..." I stopped him there: "Hold it. These days programmes

on Channel 6 start at six o'clock or earlier, and they are in German and French." "But I don't speak German or French," he whined. "Neither do I," I retorted, "but a lot of people do. Besides, it improves your word-power. What about comedies?" He brightened up at that. "Oh, we had things like Love Thy Neighbour, or Wendy Craig in And Mother Makes Three, and Syd James in Bless This House. I liked that. Are they making a new series?" I broke the news gently that Syd James had been dead for years, along with a lot of other good comics, and then told him about comedies today. About how Matthew Barton in It's Your Move was going to try to fix up his ugly fat friend Ellie with a girl-friend, or about the eternal emotional mix-ups in Three's Company. I told him about Channel 6 in A Million, and how Tom's plans for a surprise birthday party for Alison got ruined by such things as a drunken pillar-box, and a mix-up over the punch-bowl and a fur coat. His eyes really lit up when I mentioned Three Up, Two Down, and how Michael Elphick and Angela Thorne in the lead roles were a perfect match, whose comic sense and timing made the most of script-writing which at times was a bit flabby, and that although they hated each other at present, after six weeks or so of living in the same basement flat together, romance would doubtless blossom. What about movies?

"We had three," he exclaimed proudly. "There was movie of the week on Saturdays, mystery movie on Wednesdays, and a feature film on Thursdays. How about you?" "We also have three," I answered. "Tonight there's Monte Walsh, starring Lee Marvin, Jeanne Moreau and Jack Palance. It's a 1970 film, in which two aging cowboys find life increasingly hard and hopeless; and old acquaintance kills one and is shot by the other. It's a realistic Western, developed in a leisurely style with the emphasis on character and on the real drudgery of frontier life. The bronco-busting scene cost half-a-million dollars. The midweek movie is now shown on Tuesdays, and is generally only a mystery in that no-one knows in advance what it will be." My predecessor smiled, and held me with his glittering eye. "This week, though," I continued, "it's something called Terror On The 40th Floor, and is a sort of remake of Towering Inferno, in which seven people get trapped in a burning skyscraper, scream a lot, and generally get very hot under the collar. Thursday's offering is a 1952 effort, starring Broderick Crawford and Donna Reed, and is called Scandal Sheet. An editor has to allow a star reporter to expose a murderer — himself. On the subject of murder, how about cop-shows in 1975?"

It was as if I had opened a set of very big flood gates. "Gosh, Well,

to start with there was The Six Million Dollar Man. Then there was Hawaii Five-O, and Mannix, also Kojak, Baretta, and Petrocelli. Four or five a week. It was great." I couldn't believe my ears. "But that's overkill! And anyway, what about romance? Mannix was just a macho stud, with none of the goofy charm of Magnum, Kojak just sucked on a lollipop and hit people, while the only women Steve McGarrett came across were murderesses. As for the 60's, 6-Million Dollar Man, the only thing that stirred his libido was a vending machine. Compare that to the sweet-nothings exchanged in Remington Steele, or the ongoing situation in Bergerac. OK, so Francine nearly left Jim last week, but she realised her error just in time, and at fade-out was clasped in his arms. Just as well, too, since this week he gets involved in a very nasty case in which sinister, National Front types try to persuade a retired army Major, (played by Ian Hendry), not to write his memoirs. Let's move on, though. Documentaries?"

He looked sheepish. "Ahem, well, we had one, on Sundays." I smiled indulgently. "There's still a Sunday documentary. Right now it's called Way Of The Warrior, and this week looks at Tai Chi — The Soft Way. It's all about that

**Saturday**  
8:30 It's Your Move  
9:00 Automania  
9:30 Varieties  
10:20 Film: Monte Walsh

**Sunday**  
8:30 Chance In A Million  
9:10 Way Of The Warrior  
10:20 Hotel

**Monday**  
8:30 Three Up, Two Down  
9:10 Bergerac  
9:20 Special: Thomas Jefferson

**Tuesday**  
8:30 Lucy Arnaz Show  
9:10 Bleak House  
10:20 Film: Terror On The 40th Floor

**Wednesday**  
8:30 Three's Company  
9:10 Documentary: Conquest  
10:20 Remington Steele

**Thursday**  
8:30 Emergency Room  
9:10 Scene of Crime  
9:30 Varieties  
10:20 Film: Scandal Sheet

**Friday**  
8:30 Sara  
9:10 Love and Marriage  
10:20 Magnum

solo shadow boxing they indulge in parks in China during their lunch hour. It can take a lifetime to perfect, and teaches the need to live in harmony with natural things and to feel at one with the spirit of the world. Chi, the spirit or vital energy force contained in all things, is of fundamental importance, and is used in fighting practice to guide the body in swaying, circular motions which deflect the



"For heaven's sake, stop living in the past. This is 1985" — Love and Marriage, Friday, 9:10

hacker's power and turn it to the defender's advantage. But Tai Chi offers more than an approach to self-defence. Constant training in calmness of mind, relaxation and flexibility of body, growth and tempering of spirit, all developed in harmonic balance, creates a way or path which may believe guides them through life. He looked sort a wistful as he murmured, "Gee, I could have done with some of that in here these last ten years." I know it was hitting a man when he was down, but I had to do it. "That's not all, though. We also have Automania on Saturdays. This week it examines the profound and permanent changes that the car has brought to society and the way we live now. Motels, drive-in movies, even drive-in churches: These are all by-products of the motor-car. Other benefits, to use a charitable phrase, is the ending of rural isolation, the way people spend their leisure time, urban sprawl, and fast dwindling energy resources. To say nothing about the loss of life and limb. Do you know that cars are only mobile three per cent of their life, and that more Americans have driving licenses, and use them, than vote?" He sighed: "No, I didn't. We could have done with instructive, educational programmes like that in my day." It was time to be brutal. "Look, Mac," I snarled. "You haven't heard the half of it. There's also the documentary on Wednesday, OK, so Vista is going to be absent for a couple of weeks, or so I'm told, but it's been replaced by something called Conquest, which this week takes a long look at the wolves in Alaska, their breeding habits, living environment, social patterns, things like that. And there is also the Monday night series of specials. Last week saw the conclusion of the George Orwell study. Poor old guy, I suspect he was more than willing to die, what with his wife dying so suddenly herself, his illness, and the fact that his dream of a Socialist and fair world for all was playing a very poor second fiddle to the rise of totalitarianism around the world.

This week we are being treated to an in-depth portrait of Thomas Jefferson, the man who drafted the American Declaration of Independence. "My interlocutor chuckled. "Hey, wasn't he the bloke who said: 'Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with none?'" "Yes," I replied. "And he also said: 'Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just.' Kinda ironic, huh?" He laughed then: "Well, you know, some things never change."

We ruminated for a bit, then the sorry creature across the table looked up. (I fear thee, Ancient Mariner! I fear thy skinny hand). "Wait a minute. We had a fair bit of drama back in 1975. There was Little Women, and Jennie, about Winston Churchill's mother. Pretty good, wouldn't you agree?" The poor man was evidently scratching for crumbs. I decided to let him down lightly. "Yes, but were they better than Bleak House, with its broad canvas of man's greed and chicanery, and its evocative heaps of mud and filth? Or the drama series Love and Marriage? This week's play is called A Matter Of Will, and concerns itself with how the elderly also fall in love, and suffer the same heartaches."

The faded old hack was obviously desperate now, and he almost screamed at me: "But we did have Marcus Welby, M.D.!" It was time for the coup de grace, so I told him about Hotel, and how Mark showed definitely psychopathic tendencies last week.

After a bit, he stopped crying, and began nibbling at this dead Albatross he produced from inside his shirt. I left him then, a sadder and a wiser man. As I closed and locked the door, he gave me one last parting shot. "You just wait, buddy; you just wait for 1995. You'll see!" Outside, in the cold and dark, I pondered his words. What could he mean? Lighning up a Lucky Strike. I turned my steps towards the boss man's lair. I couldn't help noticing that my pulse was starting to pick up again.

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# Al Faisali eliminates Al Wehdat 2-0

AMMAN (J.T.) — In an all-Jordanian shootout before 17,000 fans at Amman International Stadium, Al Faisali soccer team beat arch-rivals Al Wehdat 2-0 on Friday in the last leg of the first Arab Soccer Tournament, organised by Al Faisali Sports Club on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's 50th birthday celebration.

The victory left Al Faisali with seven points, six points clear of the other three teams in the tournament. Only the Syrian club Al Karamah has a slim chance of overcoming Al Faisali's lead.

The match, attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, saw Al Faisali dominate against the defensive-minded Al Wehdat team.

Al Faisali drew first blood at the 18th minute when striker Khalid Awad's corner kick found Nasser Abd Al Fateh in front of the net. Al Fateh's header eluded goal-

keeper Bassem Tayem and Al Faisali took a 1-0 lead.

Al Wehdat played defensively throughout, seeking to score off counterattacks, but Al Faisali's defenders were able to control all threats from Al Wehdat.

In the 3rd minute of the second half Al Wehdat missed its best scoring opportunity when Jihad Abd Al Munam's kick on goal rebounded off the bar away from the net.

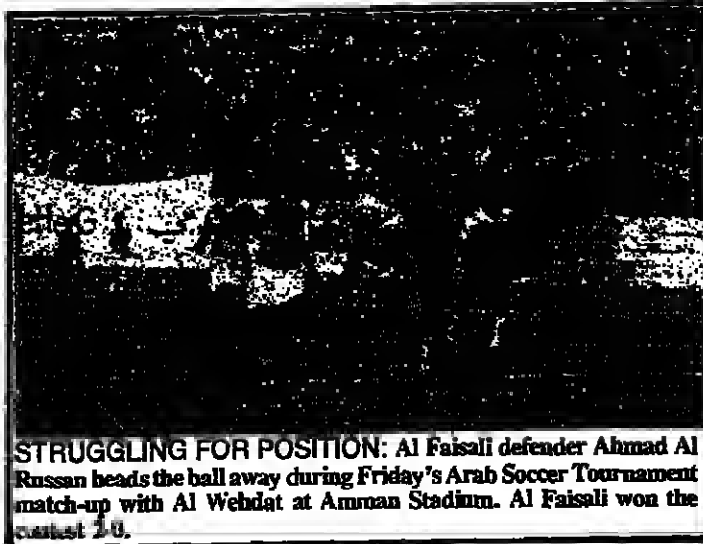
After near-misses by Awad and Ibrahim Mustafa Al Faisali cooled down the tempo and did not attack

again until the 31st minute when striker Awad tackled two Al Wehdat defenders and delivered the ball to Mustafa, whose header narrowly missed.

Al Faisali sealed their victory in the 43rd minute when Bassem Murad launched a counterattack with a pass to Jamal Abu Ahd. Abu Ahd delivered the ball to the waiting Khalid Awad and Awad's kick found the net to give Al Faisali a 2-0 lead and the match.

The remaining matches of the tournament pit Al Karamah against the Lebanese team Al Najmeh and then against Al Wehdat in the final match of the tourney. If Al Karamah wins both contests, the championship will be decided on goal difference between Al Faisali and Al Karamah, who drew their match on Wednesday.

Al Karamah will meet Al Najmeh at Amman Stadium on Saturday at 3:00 p.m.



STRUGGLING FOR POSITION: Al Faisali defender Ahmad Al Hassan heads the ball away during Friday's Arab Soccer Tournament match-up with Al Wehdat at Amman Stadium. Al Faisali won the contest 2-0.

## Kasparov tightens grip on title with win in game 19

MOSCOW (Agencies) Chess champion Anatoly Karpov resigned without resuming play Friday in the adjourned 19th game of his world title series with challenger Garri Kasparov, giving Kasparov a formidable two-point lead in the match.

Kasparov had been so confident of winning when play was adjourned Thursday night that he revealed his intended 42nd move, a display unprecedented in world championship play.

The cocksure gesture brought a full house of over 1,000 spectators to their feet. No one in the Tchaikovsky Hall could recall a similar incident happening at world championship level.

By playing the move meant to go into the adjournment envelope, Kasparov effectively indicated to Anatoly Karpov that the champion could only resign in his position.

During the pandemonium, which led to one spectator being thrown out for shouting "Why play, Karpov resign," a match official threatened that the next game would be played behind closed doors.

Kasparov's bold step brought the crowd, already venting their emotion after a nerve-racking time scramble with both players in danger of forfeiting the game by

failing to reach move 40 in the allotted five hours, to greater displays of approval.

Applause turned to cheers and stamping feet lasting long after the stage emptied as the significance of Kasparov's gesture began to sink in.

Earlier in the match, after game 11 which Kasparov won to draw level, there were rumours that the extent of the ovation and adulation for his opponent had upset Karpov so much that he raised the possibility of playing without spectators.

With tickets for the remaining games already scarce commodities, such a move would cause great public uproar and financial complications.

The game itself was everything that experts had predicted — a battle of nerves far removed from the accurate well-considered encounters of past weeks.

After a laborious opening, Kasparov emerged with a strategic advantage that most grandmasters felt was decisive.

But as the challenger grew short of time, he vacillated and Karpov systematically mounted counterplay. At one stage Kasparov's assistants left the analysis room, unable to bear to watch his position beginning to deteriorate as time ran out.

## K.C. hangs on in World Series

ST. LOUIS, Missouri (R) — Kansas City Royals manager Dick Howser is a man who keeps his word.

After losing to the St. Louis Cardinals in game four of the World Series Wednesday night, Howser promised that pitcher Danny Jackson would beat the Cardinals in last night's fifth game of the best-of-seven series.

The Royals backed up Howser's word, by slugging the Cardinals for 11 hits and a 6-1 victory which cut the Cards' lead to 3-2.

Danny Jackson, who struck out five and walked three, gave up just five hits in going the distance for the Royals and bringing his record to 1-1 in the series.

"He's a finisher," Howser said of Jackson. "He's a gamer. Use any word you want. He has confidence in himself and I've got all the world of confidence in him. He gave them that run in the first inning and just shut them down after that."

The only Cardinal run came with two out in the first inning. St. Louis second baseman Tom Herr doubled to leftfield and first baseman Jack Clark drove him in with a double to left centerfield, which was the only time the Cards hit the ball really hard off Jackson.

"We really feel we can shut down their hitting," said Jackson.

"I felt a little weird on the mound in the first three innings. I felt I didn't have my stuff until the fourth inning," he said.

While Jackson was baffling the Cardinals, the Royals' pecked away at five Cardinal pitchers, beginning with starter and loser Bob Forsch who lasted just one and 2/3 innings.

After scoring one run in the first inning on two singles, the Royals scored three runs in the second for all the runs they needed to stay alive in the series. They put icing on the cake with single runs in the eighth and ninth innings.

With one out, catcher Jim Sundberg doubled and shortstop Buddy Biancalana singled to left driving in Sundberg. Lonnie Smith walked with two outs and Willie Wilson drove in two runs with a triple that bounced off the right centerfield wall.

"I wasn't trying for a triple," Wilson said. "I just wanted a base hit. Forsch was pitching me away. He gave me one away in the first that I got a single on. I was looking for another pitch away when I tried."

Despite being racked for six runs, the five St. Louis pitchers struck out 15 Royals. Todd Worrell tied a World Series record for most consecutive strikeouts with

six in the 6th and 7th innings. Moos Drabowsky of the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1966 and Todd Eller in 1919 with the Cincinnati Reds share the mark.

The Royals' victory forces at least a sixth game, which will be played Saturday night in Kansas City. Charlie Leibrandt is scheduled to pitch for the Royals and Danny Cox for the Cardinals.

"Our team just seem to play better under pressure," Wilson said. "I don't know why. We didn't think about being eliminated or losing. Before the game we were joking around, having fun in the clubhouse and just wanting to go home and play well there."

The Royals were badly frightened in the 8th inning when star third baseman George Brett, running in vain after a foul pop up, slid along the artificial turf, down the stairs and into the Royals dug-out.

Brett, who is hitting .333 in the series with four RBI, stroked a single into right when he came to bat just moments later, but was taken out of the game because he was complaining of blurred vision.

Howser said Brett would be examined before it is known whether he will be able to play in the sixth game Saturday.

## Becker to clash with Lendl in Tokyo

TOKYO (R) — Wimbledon champion Boris Becker and U.S. Open title-holder Ivan Lendl will clash for only the second time in the semifinals of the \$375,000 Tokyo Grand Prix tennis tournament Saturday.

The match will be Becker's first chance to avenge his defeat by Lendl at the U.S. Clay Court Championships in July. He was denied the opportunity in the Davis Cup tie between West Germany and Czechoslovakia this month when injury forced Lendl to miss the singles.

The 17-year-old Becker, seeded fourth, beat Anders Jarryd of Sweden 7-6, 6-4 in Friday's quarter-finals and top seed Lendl disposed of American Tim May-

otte 6-4, 7-5.

Third-seeded defending champion Jimmy Connors beat fellow-American Vincent Van Patten, a wild card, 7-5, 6-2 and will meet Sweden's Mats Wilander, seeded second, in the other semifinal.

Wilander booked his ticket with a 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 victory over number six seed Andres Gomez of Ecuador.

Becker's victory over Jarryd was his second over the Swede since Wimbledon, but Jarryd, the number five seed, thrilled the 6,000 crowd with some devastating returns of the West German's booming serves.

Becker clinched a desperately close first set which went to pro-

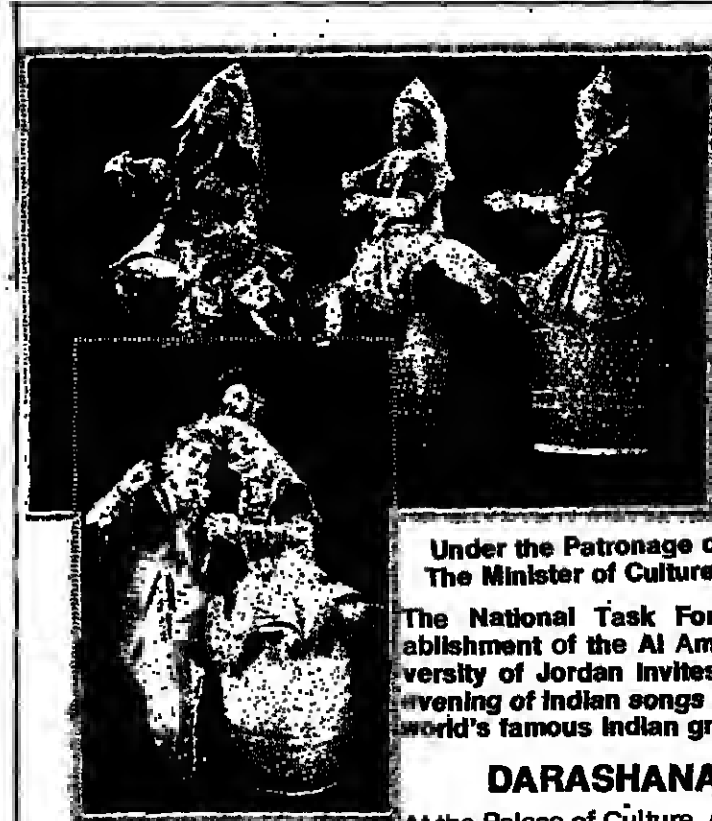
tracted tie-break with a service ace and a brilliant volley.

In the second set Becker broke Jarryd's service in the fifth game with two fine volleys and never looked back.

He said: "I was lucky to win the tie-breaker. But I think I played well because I won the big points."

Lendl outlasted Mayotte, a serve-and-volley player, with some excellent retrieving. The Czech broke Mayotte's serve in the ninth game with a brilliant return ace and held his serve to take the first set.

The match went with service in the second set. Mayotte leading 5-4, but Lendl, with a break in the 11th game took the last three games to seal the match.



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Please send applications addressed to the Personnel Officer, P.O. Box 354, Amman.

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## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.		
One sterling	1.4230/40	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3670/75	Canadian dollars
	2.6450/65	West German marks
	2.9845/60	Dutch guilders
	2.1695/1710	Swiss francs
	53.55/60	Belgian francs
	8.0625/0725	French francs
	1785/1787	Italian lire
	214.95/215.10	Japanese yen
	7.9475/9525	Swedish crowns
	7.9390/9440	Norwegian crowns
	9.6000/6050	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	325.25/325.75	U.S. dollars

## LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities ended the last day of the account mixed with light profit-taking noted after the recent advance to record highs, dealers said. The FTSE 100 share index at 1530 GMT Friday was down 4.4 from Thursday's record close at 1545.2.

ICI eased 2p to 657 following Thursday's third quarter results while Distillers rose 11p to 441 on bid speculation. Allied Lyons shaded 2p to 268, with the market cautious awaiting further bid developments.

Government bonds showed losses of around 5/16 point among medium dated issues. Gold shares were easier after a steady opening and North Americans were little changed.

Recal came under selling pressure, down 14p at 126. The company announced a restructuring plan at its Raca-Milgo, Florida subsidiary because of lower than expected business volume this year.

Tin shares were lower with tin trading remaining suspended on the London metal exchange (LME). The suspension will continue for Monday at least. LME traders said, Geveor Tin shed 22p to 144 and Sungei Besi declined 12p to 168.

## YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** The daytime is good for getting your activities in such a condition that they work out as you desire for some time to come and for doing whatever requires intermittent attention.

**ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19)** Early give priority matters your attention and try to find methods for self-improvement. Be very social this evening.

**TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20)** Your intuitions are good and should be followed if you are to gain personal goals easily.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)** Get into public or worldly matters that attend you and handle them most efficiently. Have fun with friends.

**MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21)** Study which of the new interests you have considered of late that you feel will be best to take on at this time.

**LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21)** Study your practical affairs well and know how to make them work out better in the days ahead.

**VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22)** You like to do everything precisely and this is possible now if you gain the cooperation of allies.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)** Study your surroundings and see how to make them more charming and comfortable. You understand an associate better now.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)** Forget dull duties and get together with congenials at activities that are enjoyable. Make sure you don't over-spend today.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)** Be sure to handle kin with kid gloves so that more harmony can reign at home. Be more cooperative.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20)** A fine day for communicating and handling correspondence that has been accumulating. Drive very carefully.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19)** Any ideas you have to gain a greater abundance which you need should be discussed with an expert.

**PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20)** A day to decide what is best for you to do in the future to better your position in life.

**IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ...** he or she has every ability to understand the motives behind the actions of others so teach early to be tactful otherwise your progeny could get into much trouble.

## Egypt aims to boost tourism

KUWAIT (R) — Egyptian Prime Minister Ali Lutfi, in an interview published here Thursday said he attached priority to enhancing his country's tourist industry.

Interviewed in Cairo by the sister dailies Al Siyasah and Arab Times, he said a development programme would go to the congress next month, identifying the problem of high consumer prices and a need to stick to the state's five year plan as the main economic priorities.

"The government will concentrate on two topics: The need to abide by the five-year plan, and the problem of prices," he said. Egypt is currently in the fourth year of the plan.

Mr. Lutfi said the state had looked at plans to encourage foreign and local investment in new tourist projects in Egypt, which has one-quarter of the world's ancient

monuments.

Egypt, with a population of 50 million people, attracted only 1.5 million tourists a year, he said, whereas Spain with a population of 40 million attracted 41 million.

"Tourism has been given a priority, because the present state of the industry is unacceptable," he said, adding that a special fund had been set up to improve efficiency in the industry.

Mr. Lutfi said Egyptian prices were rising at a rate of 10 to 15 per cent a year and low-income families were suffering. He cited as examples pensioners and civil servants, who make up 25 per cent of the population.

The shortage of housing was also being given priority attention. Some plants were being built which should make Egypt self-sufficient in cement production "very soon."

"Our steel requirements should be covered by a new factory being built at Duhail, but of course we shall have to continue importing wood," Mr. Lutfi said.

The education system, he added, needed "thorough overhaul."

He said Egypt, which currently imports 60 per cent of its food, needed to develop agriculture at the same rate at which the population was rising, and aim for self-sufficiency.

The government would aim to guide spending towards fruitful areas, ensuring greater returns than the original outlay.

"Of course, we have to cut back spending on non-productive items, such as advertisements in newspapers showing state officials," he said. The number of overseas trips made by officials also needed to be limited.

## Baker plan may face stiff opposition by world banks

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. plans for shoring up the international debt situation may face stiff opposition when bankers from around the world meet here on Monday, monetary sources said Friday.

Large U.S. banks are rallying around the proposal, but a number of major European and Japanese banks have grave misgivings, they said.

Treasury Secretary James Baker and Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker, who devised the scheme, also face opposition on Capitol Hill and a distinctly cool attitude from top White House officials, banking and monetary sources said.

Mr. Baker has called on the banks to raise their loans to major debtor states by \$20 billion over three years, and the World Bank and other development institutions are being asked to increase their lending by \$27 billion in the same period.

Debtor nations, meanwhile, are being urged to undertake genuine economic reforms rather than the piecemeal measures they have resorted to so far.

"Everybody takes this idea very, very seriously," one banker said.

The meeting is being held at the Washington-based Institute for International Finance, a clearing house for information on debtor nations set up by the banks when the debt crisis broke out in mid-1982.

"The bankruptcy of debt policies of the last three years is so obvious that I just can't imagine that people would want to con-

tinue them," said one banker who asked not to be named.

Those policies, spearheaded by former treasury secretary, Mr. Donald Regan, called for the problems of debtor nations to be dealt with on a case-by-case financial basis by the banks and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) while the U.S. Treasury would on occasion provide temporary financial assistance.

Mr. Regan, who replaced Mr. Baker as White House chief of staff, is understood to be upset that his policies have been overruled, the sources said.

While Mr. Baker insists that his strategy builds upon the former one, Latin American officials say it partly addresses their concerns that the debt problem is global by trying to ensure a flow of capital to debtor states.

Mr. Baker hinted this week that new loans to debtors working to improve their economies should have the effect of bolstering the value of outstanding debt.

"Bank regulators have recognised generally that providing new lending can sometimes make old loans better," he told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Banks will also want assurances that the World Bank is indeed to play a bigger role, a development they believe is crucial to the success of the plan.

With the World Bank co-

financing loans to debtor states, "you have an ingredient in the cocktail that makes you sure the loan is well done," one banker said.

The World Bank, whose resources are financed chiefly by the major industrial nations, has a semi-official status that bankers find reassuring in these co-financing deals. And its loans have always been repaid on time.

The bank's resources were under-used last year and Mr. Baker wants lending to increase. But he also says that if all three elements of the plan succeed, he will seek a general capital increase for the bank from Congress.

On Capitol Hill, there was concern this week that the proposal meant the U.S. would eventually have to cough up more money for the World Bank.

Faced with record budget deficits and with farmers in a financial crisis, Congress is upset with a plan that props up debtor nations and smacks of a bank bailout, analysts say.

The sources said bankers will also debate whether to set up a "superbank," through which new loans could be channelled.

The idea, a brainchild of Fed Chairman Volcker, is opposed by some administration officials, although bankers think it is an ideal way to keep small banks in new loans.

In America, these banks have hauled at the Baker plan and their participation is thought to be crucial for Mexico, which is widely regarded as the first test case of the new strategy.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Bolivian inflation tops 24,000% a year

LA PAZ (R) — Bolivian inflation, the world's highest, soared to an annual rate of 24,400 per cent last month despite government austerity measures, and shows no sign of falling off, the national statistics institute said Thursday. The institute said prices rose 35 per cent in September, an improvement on the 66.5 per cent recorded in August, but the rate for the year to September rose to 24,400 per cent from 20,561 per cent in the 12 months to August. The institute estimated that inflation this month would be over 50 per cent. The inflation rate in 1981 stood at just 32.1 per cent.

## Damascus to invigorate farming sector

ROME (R) — Farmers in Syria will benefit from a \$36.3 million project aimed at increasing agricultural production and raising farm incomes, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) said Thursday. The Syrian government will provide the bulk of the investment — \$21.3 million — with the remainder covered by loans from IFAD and the World Bank. The project, which covers a four-year period, will concentrate on the poorest communities where productivity is lowest, and is aimed at helping smallholders and women in particular. It will include demonstrations to the local population of improved cultivation techniques and crop varieties.

## Gulf Air to fly to Kenya, Tanzania

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf Air will begin flying to Nairobi and Dar Es Salaam in early 1986, an airline spokesman said Thursday. It will also lease a second Boeing 747, Gulf Air, jointly owned by the governments of Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and Abu Dhabi, currently has a fleet of 11 Lockheed L-1011s, eight Boeing 737s, and a 747 leased from SAS.

## Turkey to continue trade liberalisation

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey will continue a policy of liberalising its trade and depreciating its currency to boost exports, Deputy Prime Minister Kaya Erdem told a meeting of foreign businessmen Thursday. He said that Turkey aimed to pull its inflation rate down to 25 per cent from its present level of 35 per cent a year by the end of 1986.

## 45% negative growth may hit Singapore

SINGAPORE (R) — Singapore's economy could contract by 4.5 per cent this year, far worse than official predictions of zero growth, the financial daily Business Times said Thursday. It would be the worst performance since Gross Domestic Product (GDP) dropped to a negative 3.5 per cent growth in 1964 when the economy was disrupted by communal conflict and confrontation with Indonesia. The daily said it based its forecast on estimates by businessmen that third quarter GDP had dropped by 2.7 per cent. Singapore registered zero growth in the first quarter of this year and a negative 0.6 per cent GDP between April and June. The economy grew by 8.2 per cent last year.

## Crisis hits tin trading

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Tin trading was suspended until further notice here Friday following a halt in business in London, but the cash needed to mop up oversupply can only be a short-term solution, traders here said.

Primarily Industries Minister Paul Leong told Reuters he would meet local producers Friday and expressed concern about the livelihoods of the 23,000 tin miners in Malaysia, the world's largest producer of the metal.

Traders said the money needed urgently to buy up the tens of thousands of tonnes of tin weighing down the world market, centred here and in London, had sapped the confidence of market-makers and a long-term rethink of supply and demand was needed.

Thursday, the International Tin Council, grouping leading producers and consumers, stopped supporting sagging prices because it had run out of cash and credit to buy tin. The London metal exchange, the world's premier metal mart, suspended tin trading.

Dealers here and in London said the council's buffer stock purchases could not go on indefinitely, even if the millions of dollars necessary could be found. They predicted further crises.

The council is due to hold an emergency meeting in London next Tuesday to decide how to put the market back on its feet and re-open with renewed confidence and steady prices. It owns some 60,000 tonnes of tin and has also borrowed heavily to finance huge future purchases of the metal.

Tin consumption has been badly dented by use of metals like aluminium for the traditional tin can, by recession and by big sales by non-council members like Bolivia, Brazil and China.

Members have also jointly slashed exports since 1982 in a fruitless bid to balance over-supply and poor demand. Some have complained of smuggling by others trying to boost revenue.

The number of mines in Malaysia fell to 458 in mid-1985 from 512 a year earlier. Production is set to fall to 39,000 tonnes next year from 40,000 this year.

## More banks sue Kuwaiti central bank, paper reports

KUWAIT (R) — Two Western banks have joined an American bank in suing the Kuwait Central Bank over its handling of rescue action for a troubled foreign exchange house which owed them money, Al Jahes newspaper said Thursday.

First Chicago Corporation, parent of First National Bank of Chicago, said Wednesday it had filed suit against the central bank to recover a loan to Kuwait's second largest foreign exchange house, Jawad and Hyder Y. Abul Hasan. Al Jahes said American Express and Britain's Midland Bank were also filing suit against the central bank in respect of loans to Abul Hasan.

The central bank has so far

made no comment on the matter.

First Chicago, which informed sources said is seeking less than \$10 million, said its suit seeks the release of collateral Abul Hasan had given the central bank.

Finance Minister Jassim Al Khorafi said in May the central bank had supervised and provided half of a \$50 million rescue loan to Abul Hasan. Local bank creditors put together a rescuing deal to cover the rest, in a bailout intended to settle commitments on its foreign-exchange-operations, he said.

"If the firm was unable to pay this type of debt, it would harm the reputation abroad of Kuwaiti financial institutions and fuel doubts over their ability to meet foreign

debits," Sheikh Khorafi said. "This could have prompted (foreign) banks to cut credit lines and facilities."

Banking sources said a distinction was made between debts on foreign exchange operations and loans. Foreign banks would bear the consequences without help in the case of bad loans.

They believed the assets of Abul Hasan were pledged as collateral to the central bank.

Al Jahes said First Chicago was seeking recovery of \$7.5 million lent to Abul Hasan, and American Express and Midland Bank each sought \$3 million. They were suing the central bank since it now controlled Abul Hasan's assets, it added.

## Austrian parliament passes strict wine law

VIENNA (R) — Austria's parliament passed a strict new wine law Thursday aiming to tighten controls and restore faith in the country's wine after a major international scandal.

The bill was drafted this summer after widespread illegal adulteration of Austrian wine with the toxic sweetener diethylene glycol — also used in anti-freeze. Dozens of Austrian wine-

growers drove tractors through Vienna to parliament Thursday, urging rejection of the bill and calling it harsh, impractical and bureaucratic.

It cuts the maximum amount of sugar and other permitted wine additives and orders complex anti-doctoring checks, such as comparing product volumes with grape harvest weights. The law was passed in the chamber.

number of deputies by the ruling Socialist Party and its right-wing coalition partner, the Freedom Party, against the votes of the opposition conservative People's Party which said it would put an unfair burden on farmers.

It was first passed by the chamber of deputies (lower house) in August but was rejected by the conservative-controlled upper chamber.

## THE Daily Crossword by Peter Swift

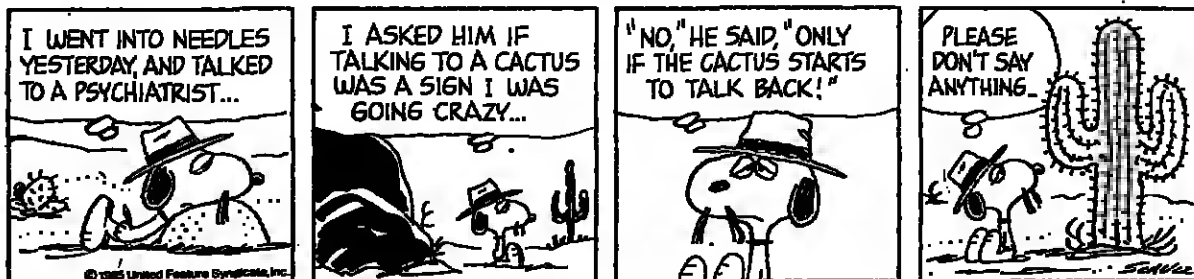
ACROSS

- 1 Pleasant
- 5 Fragrant ointments
- 10 Singer Lane
- 14 Devonport's state
- 15 Ryan or Tatum
- 16 Author Anita
- 17 Time-saving work
- 18 Mint
- 20 Magnifies
- 21 Make possible
- 22 Saudi Arabian export
- 24 Like theme
- 25 Lower in value
- 29 Machine gun
- 30 Place for a parishioner
- 33 Oraven images
- 34 Plover inventor
- 35 — Grande
- 36 Hubs
- 37 Enthusiastic reviews
- 38 Poet's name
- 39 Actress Taylor
- 40 Parking lot
- 41 Cal. player
- 42 Loris
- 43 Alcoholic
- 44 So be it
- 45 Eleventh
- 46 Helen of stage
- 47 I see
- 48 Spoil
- 49 Department
- 50 Deafening
- 51 Moonbeamer
- 52 Superhero
- 53 Lala
- 54 Polished chess
- 55 Kind of area
- 56 Use an abacus
- 57 Solitaire
- 58 Undercooked

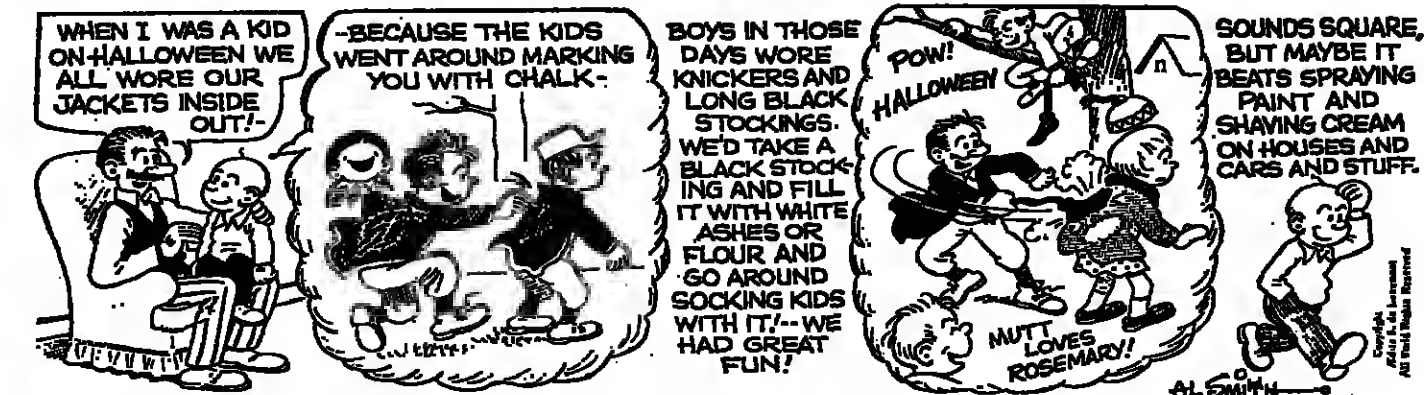
DOWN

- 1 Heckle
- 2 Oiling hind
- 3 Army truant
- 4 Actor Andrews
- 5 — woogie
- 6 Cal. player
- 7 Garza
- 8 — de mer
- 9 Pullman cars
- 10 Northern highway
- 11 Loser's consolation
- 12 Simmer
- 13 Medieval garb
- 14 Waste product
- 22 — days' wonder
- 24 Mariposa
- 25 Make a call
- 26 Cantor or
- 27 Tinspot
- 28 Cappy and
- 29 — deadly sins
- 31 Sea duck
- 32 Forest
- 34 Ope out with
- 37 Think back
- 38 Land
- 40 Baseball's
- 41 Actor Peter
- 42 Rascal
- 43 Start members
- 44 Dull flesh
- 45 Miss Clodiers
- 46 Prod
- 48 Wind spirally
- 51 A Stravinsky
- 52 Utter Pradosh
- 53 Equipment
- 54 A Gardner
- 57 Corrida shout

## Peanuts



## Mutt 'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp



## THE BETTER HALF By Harris



## JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TYSOO

NOAKE

HARTER

MURTES

WHAT YOU MIGHT GET FROM ASTRONOMEWS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "O O O O O O O O O O"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: HABIT PAUSE HARBOR GENDER

Answer: What three snobbish members of the horse set thought they were — A BREED APART



## 2 killed in Durban blast

South African police swoop on dissidents

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Two black men were killed when a bomb exploded at a white girls' school in the Indian Ocean city of Durban, South African police said Friday.

In Cape Town, the country's other major port, police detained about 60 anti-apartheid activists, a lawyer for some of the dissidents said Friday.

Police could not immediately confirm the detentions but the lawyer said teachers, students and anti-apartheid activists had been among those picked up.

Once clergyman said the detainees also included church ministers.

The Rev. Alan Brews told Reuters at least three churchmen were among those detained, including a professor of religious studies at the University of Cape Town, Charles Villa-Vieira.

Rev. Brews said several local leaders of the anti-apartheid group, the United Democratic

Front (UDF), were rounded up in the raids which followed more than a week of violence in the Cape.

He said that when Villa-Vieira was arrested, "he was told it was because they had reason to believe he had been involved with the unrest."

"That is impossible because he had been away at a Methodist Church conference in Bloemfontein for the week and only arrived back in Cape Town last night," the clergyman added.

The government-run school where the bomb exploded is designated a polling station in one of five by-elections for white voters next Wednesday.

Just before the bomb went off, Foreign Minister P.W. Botha and

Andries Treurnicht, leader of the far right Conservative Party, were addressing by-election meetings less than a kilometre from the school.

Five parties are fighting the by-election in Durban's Port Natal constituency, held by the ruling national party.

Witnesses said one of the men's bodies was ripped apart by the blast while the other was crushed beneath a classroom wall which collapsed.

Police said the school, in the hill area overlooking the Port of Durban and the Indian Ocean, would have to be closed Friday while they checked whether further explosives had been planted.

They said the bomb contained high explosives and people living nearby told reporters they were almost been thrown out of bed by the force of the blast.

Durban has been a frequent target for bombings blamed on

guerrillas fighting white minority rule in South Africa, but there had been few casualties in recent blasts.

Twenty people were killed by a car bomb in Pretoria in 1983.

The government, faced with a strong ultra-right-wing challenge after making cautious modifications to apartheid laws, is defending all five seats in Wednesday's by-elections.

The concessions have failed to halt 20 months of black unrest which has claimed over 780 lives.

President P.W. Botha is Friday lifting emergency rule from six of the 36 districts, all in the eastern Cape and Johannesburg, where it was imposed in July in an attempt to quell unrest.

"The lifting of the state of emergency is proof of the effectiveness of these measures in ensuring a return to normality," Mr. Botha said.

## Thatcher's party trails in post-convention polls

LONDON (R) — Britain's ruling Conservatives have trailed in the first opinion polls since the annual party conference season but Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's personal popularity held up despite some slippage in support.

The polls in the Daily Telegraph and Guardian newspapers put the opposition Labour Party in the lead with 38 per cent and 34 per cent of those questioned saying they would vote for it in an immediate general election.

The Conservatives, whose failure to halt record unemployment is under fire, secured the support of 32 per cent in both polls.

A centrist Alliance of Liberals and Social Democrats, ahead in the polls last month, secured 32 and 28 per cent support.

Mrs. Thatcher, who has made no secret of her ambition of winning a third term, remained the number one choice for prime minister in both polls with the support of 30 per cent of those questioned, her best showing for several months.

But Labour leader Neil Kinnock improved his showing in both polls winning 29 and 26 per cent support and the Telegraph poll suggested voter disenchantment with Mrs. Thatcher's style — a majority of 55 per cent said they did not like her.

By contrast, 63 per cent said

they liked Mr. Kinnock, 61 per cent said they liked Liberal leader David Steel and 47 per cent said they liked Social Democratic Party leader David Owen.

Mrs. Thatcher's policies fared even worse with 64 per cent saying they disliked them with only 32 per cent liking them, but a majority also disliked the policies of the other parties.

Britain currently faces record unemployment of 3.34 million or one in eight of the nation's work force. The percentage without work is higher in run-down inner cities, the target of riots in September and October, in which four people died.

Mrs. Thatcher's critics accuse the government of being uncaring and some members of her own party have called for an increase in state spending to help create jobs.

Some, including leading businessmen, argue that the money could be spent repairing Britain's crumbling infrastructure.

This runs counter to Mrs. Thatcher's policy of curbing state spending to keep a rein on inflation, which has dropped to 5.9 per cent.

Mrs. Thatcher must call a general election by 1988.

A total of 979 voters were questioned in the Gallup Poll for the Telegraph, while 1,463 were questioned for the Marplan Poll in the Guardian.

## Craxi: U.S.-Italian ties are 'calm after storm'

NEW YORK (R) — Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi has strongly defended his handling of the Achille Lauro hijacking but said U.S.-Italian relations were now "calm after the storm."

U.S. officials said President Reagan and Mr. Craxi agreed at a 20-minute meeting to put differences behind them.

"The incident is over. The misunderstandings are acknowledged but are going to be put behind us," a senior American aide told reporters, adding that Mr. Reagan had praised Italy's "outstanding record in combating terrorism."

But Mr. Craxi sounded unrepentant at his news conference about Italian actions during the hijack drama and accused the American press of writing offensive things about his country.

He said the Italian government had made itself a party to a breach of international law by agreeing to Mr. Reagan's request to allow a plane carrying the four Palestinian hijackers to land in Sicily after it was intercepted by U.S. fighters.

Mr. Craxi defended as a "just and wise decision" his action in letting Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (Abu) Abbas leave Italy

despite an extradition request from the United States, which believes he masterminded the hijacking of the Italian luxury liner in which a crippled American tourist, Leon Klinghoffer, was killed.

Mr. Craxi said Egypt had warned him that if Italian troops attempted to take Abu Abbas off the Egyptian airliner forced to land at Sigonella NATO Air Base in Sicily, Egyptian security men aboard the plane had orders to respond with force.

Mr. Craxi, who is acting prime minister, said there was no conclusive evidence that Abu Abbas was the ringleader, although Italian judges might reach this conclusion.

He added that since Egypt had accorded the Palestinian leader diplomatic protection aboard the plane, Abu Abbas had in fact never left Egyptian territory.

He said Italy had been defamed in America as a nation of cowards who would do anything rather than risks.

On the contrary, the Italian captain of the ship had offered his life to save the hostages and Italian commandos had been standing by to intervene if necessary.

## Icelandic women end one-day strike

REYKJAVIK (R) — Iceland's women Friday ended a 24-hour strike against male privileges that closed down much of the country and almost provoked a constitutional crisis when the island's woman-president began sympathy action.

The daylong protest culminated with a rally of 25,000 over a quarter of Reykjavik's population — in the capital's main square under the slogan "we dare, we can, we will" at which women complained men had left them the worst-paid jobs.

President Vigdis Finnbogadóttir initially refused to sign urgent legislation ordering air hostesses back to work after declaring she wanted to show solidarity with her sisters, but changed her mind under government pressure, officials said.

Women made up over half of Iceland's population of 240,000 and 80 per cent of them go out to work. In spite of filling the presidency, they mostly hold low-paid jobs in schools, nursing and fish-packing plants and seldom rise to management posts.

The strike, in which housewives were urged to refuse to cook and wash up for their husbands, was held on the 10th anniversary of a similar stoppage called when the United Nations decreed an International Women's Decade.

Ten years on, Icelandic women only voiced disillusionment — in stark contrast to the optimism they had shown when the U.N. decade was launched — and the mood at Thursday's rally was angry after the government broke the air hostess strike.

A walkout by Icelandair's 160 stewardesses last Wednesday grounded the national airline and left half the country's airliners stranded at foreign airports. Air transport is vital in Iceland where the

road network is poorly developed. In a random survey of demonstrators interviewed by Reuters at the rally, Icelandic women said their men behaved worse than those of any other Western country, allowing virtually none of them into posts of financial and economic power.

Many women complained that Iceland was based on a primitive fishermen's society where men had never tolerated the notion of equality between the sexes. Others said the strike showed a strength and independence that had characterised Icelandic women ever since Viking settlers came 1,000 years ago.

The rally loudly applauded a telegram of support from a group called the Fighting Society of Housewives in Britain, which said: "Congratulations on your wonderful feat. Please keep going with your fight for the women of the whole world."

## Fabius reaffirms commitment to nuclear test

MURUROA, Polynesia (R) — France has reaffirmed its commitment to nuclear testing after a day which saw one explosion, apparent preparations for another and an attempt by Greenpeace protesters to disrupt them.

The pledge came from Prime Minister Laurent Fabius Thursday night after he had been present at the first of a new series of underground experiments at Mururoa in the South Pacific.

"The sovereignty of France is not open to discussion," he told an appreciative audience of military personnel and atomic scientists at the top-secret base.

"The nuclear tests are necessary to us. We will conduct them as other countries do."

Answering critics of the experiments, Mr. Fabius said 10 years of underground tests at Mururoa has shown that their assertions were "not based on scientific reality."

"We do not seek to conceal any risks, for a simple reason — the experiments are totally innocuous," he added.

Speaking before returning to Paris, Mr. Fabius said the latest test has demonstrated an exceptional mastery of complex technology and rigorous security measures.

He also specified three nuclear arms under development — the M-4 multi-warhead missile already in service on a strategic submarine, a medium-range air-

to-ground missile (ASMP) and the Hades artillery system.

French defence chiefs have said Hades could fire neutron warheads, an intensified radiation weapon that would kill people while limiting structural damage.

Earlier Lucien Michaud, assistant director of France's Atomic Energy Commission (CEA), expressed satisfaction with Thursday's explosion but said it was too early to gauge whether it had been a success.

"We have at least two months work ahead of us now analysing the data we have gathered," he told Reuters.

"It's like photography. The camera works and you take a picture, but you don't know the result till you develop the film."

Mr. Lucien would not specify the power of the bomb, which had little apparent impact on the surface of the remote atoll, although he said it was "relatively weak."

In accordance with long-standing practice, he also declined to say when the next test would take place.

However the presence of a barge bearing measuring apparatus close to a huge tower used for lowering nuclear devices into explosion chambers beneath the lagoon indicated that a further experiment could be staged soon.

On Thursday the seafaring ecologists of Greenpeace sailed towards Mururoa a few hours before the test.

## U.S. panel rejects SDI cuts

WASHINGTON (R) — With a U.S.-Soviet summit only weeks away, a key congressional panel has rejected more cuts in President Reagan's "Star Wars" programme but triggered a new battle over chemical weapons by deleting production funds for 1986.

The decisions were taken as the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee approved by voice vote a defence appropriations bill that presumes a defence budget total of \$292 billion and freezes spending at 1985 levels.

The bill now goes to the full House.

The powerful panel opposed, 31 to 23, reducing the "Star Wars" space-based missile defence system from \$2.5 billion recommended by its Defense Subcommittee to \$2.1 billion.

It approved, 26 to 24, a move deleting \$163.5 million for chemical weapons production. Mr. Reagan has made his "Star Wars" formally known as the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) programme, a major East-West issue and has sought to have Congress revive funding for chemical weapons, which have not been produced in the United States since 1969.

He has argued that both programmes are needed to strengthen the U.S. position at the Nov. 19-20 summit and at arms control talks in Geneva.

The bill is \$10 billion less than Mr. Reagan has said he will accept and \$10 billion below a 1986 compromise defence authorisation bill that has passed the Republican-led Senate but remains stalled in the Democratic-controlled House.

In Congress' two-step process, authorisation bills spell out policy and broad fiscal guidelines, while appropriations bills actually allocate funds.

Mr. Reagan sought \$3.7 billion for "Star Wars" research in 1986 and the defence authorisation bill gave him \$2.7 billion. Congress voted \$1.4 billion in 1985.

But arms control advocates pushed for the lower \$2.1 billion figure, arguing that it represented a generous 50 per cent increase over last year and that congressional moves to balance the budget required such reductions.

## Salvadorean guerrillas free Duarte's daughter

SAN SALVADOR (AP) — Scores of rebels allowed to leave El Salvador in a complicated exchange arrived in Panama City Friday on their way to Cuba following the release of President Jose Napoleon Duarte's daughter, who had been held hostage for six weeks.

Seventy-six of the guerrillas, 73 wounded fighters and three rebel commanders who had been captured by the government, arrived in Panama City early Friday from San Salvador aboard a Panamanian jet. Panamanian military official told the Associated Press they would be flown to Cuba.

A Cuban plane and Cuban diplomats were on hand to meet the rebels. Another group of 23 wounded rebels reportedly was flying to Mexico City.

Two of the wounded rebels were carried out on stretchers, and many were missing arms and legs.

In addition to freeing Ines Guadalupe Duarte Duran, 35, and a friend, Ana Cecilia Villeda Sosa, the guerrillas were known to have released nine of 38 mayors and municipal officials the government believes were kidnapped by the rebels and whose release was part of the exchange agreement.

The exchange, worked out during weeks of complicated bargaining, included the two women, or wounded guerrillas who had been under treatment in rebel hospitals allowed by the government to leave the country, 22 political prisoners held by the government, and the municipal officials.

Mr. Duarte said his daughter, released Thursday, was generally in good shape.

"She is tired, apparently they made her walk three days in a row. She has nervous tension, which you may understand is normal after having been kidnapped more than 40 days. She is happy to be with her father, her mother and her children," the president told reporters.

Presidential Adviser Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes said 18 of the 22 political prisoners chose to remain in El Salvador, and one, a Costa Rican pilot convicted of flying weapons to the rebels in 1981, was turned over to his nation's em-



Ines Duarte Duran

assy in San Salvador.

The three who arrived in Panama City early Friday were Nidia Diaz, who took part in peace talks with the government last year; Marcelino Reyes, a Honduran; and Santiago Rauda.

All 22 prisoners were on a list of 34 rebels the kidnappers demanded by released in exchange for the women. Three were freed earlier, leaving nine on the list the government said it could not account for.

After being released in Tenancingo about 25 miles north east of the capital, Mrs. Duarte Duran and her friend, abducted Sept. 10 in San Salvador, flew back to the capital by helicopter.

Mrs. Duarte Duran, in blue jeans and a light blue jacket, ran to her parents and her three children and embraced them. They posed briefly for photographers and left by motorcycle for home.

"They were crying," said Mr. Rey Prendes, when asked what they said. "So was I."

He acknowledged there were feelings that El Salvador's government may have given away too much but said, "It ended not too badly. They freed about 38 (the mayors and other officials) and we sent 21. That is the real exchange."

He said the permission for the 96 wounded to leave was "humanitarian."

"We have let that happen before without any pressures or exchange," Mr. Rey Prendes said.

## Column AIDS

### 'Whites blame AIDS on Africans'

ABIDJAN (R) — The official Ghanaian Times has accused whites on prejudice in blaming the spread of the killer disease AIDS on black Africans. In a recent editorial, the daily said Western press reports were creating the impression that Africa was the home of the disease — Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome — and that whites needed to avoid contact with blacks. "It is necessary to caution the African mass media against being unacceptably used in this shameful, vulgar and foolish attempt by white supremacists to push this latest white man's burden to the doors of the black man," the editorial said. It said that steps should be taken to prevent AIDS spreading in Ghana, noting that the country's Health Ministry had warned Ghanaians to be wary of contacting strangers. The fears, the caution, is quite different from the issue of whether Africa, the black man, is the originator of the disease," the daily, received in Abidjan said.

### Name changed to avoid AIDS pun

STOCKHOLM (R) — The Swedish International Development Authority is to change its name in the French-speaking world as its acronym, Sida, is the same as that for the disease AIDS in French, a spokesman has said. The organisation will be known as l'Office Central Suedois Pour l'Aide au Développement International (OSAD) from now on. Swedish aid workers first became aware of the unfortunate connection with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome when the former director of the organisation visited Vietnam in 1983. He shocked local officials by sporting a T-shirt with the unwittingly offensive slogan "SIDA — C'est Moi" (AIDS — That's Me).

### Sperm bank starts screening for AIDS

MADRID (R) — Spanish sperm banks have begun screening donors for the deadly AIDS virus after reports that four Australian women contracted the disease from a donor in Melbourne, doctors have said. Dr. Simon Marina, who opened Spain's first sperm bank in 1978, said no intravenous drug users or homosexuals were allowed to donate semen and all donors were given blood tests to ensure the absence of AIDS antibodies. About 40 cases of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), 30 of them fatal, have been reported in Spain since 1981. The disease destroys the body's natural defences.

### Swiss troops with AIDS to leave army

ZURICH (R) — Swiss soldiers suspected of having the killer disease AIDS or found carrying the AIDS virus will be dismissed from the service, the Defence Ministry has said. In a statement from Bern, the ministry said tests so far had shown two cases of soldiers being afflicted by AIDS. All Swiss males over the age of 20 are obliged to serve in the army. After an initial four month training period, they must return regularly for duty until they are 50.

### AIDS girl dismissed after biting friend

SYDNEY (AP) — The mother of a three-year-old girl who suffers from AIDS and who has been banned by health authorities from attending pre-school because she bit a classmate, said Monday: "My daughter is not a midget vampire." Tony Adams, state medical officer in New South Wales, said Eve Van Graafeur would not be allowed to attend school for two or three years. "Eve's parents should be thinking about when Eve is aged five or six and has grown out of the biting habit and is ready for primary school," he said. Eve's parents have been battling local families and the State Health Department to allow their daughter to remain at school despite her illness. Eve bit her best friend on the arm at the Kincumber Daycare Centre at Gosford, 70 kilometres north of here. Although the bite did not appear to puncture the girl's skin, authorities decided they had enough.

## COLUMN AIDS

### Siamese twins born in UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — A woman doctor has given birth to the first Siamese twins in the United Arab Emirates. The Emirates News has reported. It said hospital doctors were conducting tests on the twins, born by Caesarian section and attached at the stomach, to decide if separation was possible. The newspaper said the twins, weighing 6.65 kilograms between them, were in good health.

### Buffalo Bill disarmed in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Buffalo Bill and his cowboys had to hand over their six-guns to customs men when they arrived in Kuwait with a Wild West entertainment troupe. They lost their weapons under a security clampdown since a failed suicide car-bomb attempt on the life of the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, last May, the Arab Times has said. So when Col. "Buffalo" Bill Cody and his posse stopped bandits who had held up a stagecoach in rehearsals for the show they had to use their fingers. "Bang Bang," they shouted, pointing at the gang who — also unarmed — duly surrendered. Col. Cody said he hoped the guns would be returned for the real show, featuring rodeo stunts, Indian dances and a dramatic shoot-out on main street.

### Flowerpot crime wave hits Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — Flowerpot theft is a mystery element in Cyprus crime statistics, according to criminologist Michael Hadjimeniou. He told the Cyprus weekly that no accurate statistics were available, but a lot of it was going on. "In the U.K., the bigger incidence of unreported crime is stolen milk bottles," he said. "In Cyprus, everyone complains about flowerpots being pinched."

### Defendant says sex slave was willing

REDWOOD CITY, California (AP) — Colour photos of a chained, naked woman are on the wall, and a waterbed trimmed with black vinyl looms in front of the witness stand in the trial of a man accused of imprisoning a woman for seven years as his sex slave, Cameron Hooker, a 31-year-old mill worker who is testifying this week in his defence, admits abducting the woman to fulfill his fantasies but claims his alleged victim was a willing participant in bondage rituals and grew to love him. She has painted a picture of life in a coffin-like box or hanging nude from basement rafters. The trial, which began Sept. 26, could go to the jury as early as next week. Hooker, who is accused of 12 counts of kidnap, rape and other sex charges, lived with his wife, Janice, and the alleged victim, Janice Hooker and the woman have testified that after she was kidnapped at knife-point while hitchhiking in 1977, the woman, then 20, was brought to the Hookers' home and either handcuffed and hung from the ceiling or kept in small box for long periods of time, sometimes under the couple's waterbed.

### German company to refit QE2

LONDON (R) — Queen Elizabeth 2, Britain's best known luxury liner, is to have an £80 million (\$112 million) refit at a West German shipyard which will give her another 20 years' sailing, the ship's owners have announced. Trafalgar House, which owns the QE2, as the ship has become known, through its Cunard line subsidiary, said the major work would be carried out by Lloyd Werft of Bremerhaven, while a sub-contract for about a third of the work would go to British firms. "We did invite every British shipyard to submit plans for the work and gave them our specifications. None of them felt able to do the work and told us so," a spokesman said. The 67,139-ton QE2 will be out of service from November 1986 and is due to be sailing again with new engines in May 1987.

### 1 legged man steals artificial limb

PARIS (R) — A one-legged man stole a 15,000 franc (\$1,850) artificial leg from a prosthetic limb-maker's shop in suburban Paris after fitting himself with the device and leaving a pair of trousers behind, police said.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

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### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠ AK1093 ♥ 8 54 ♦ Q9832  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
2 ♠ Pass ?  
What action do you take?
- Q.2 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠ K10765 ♥ 93 ♦ 85 ♠ A964  
The bidding has proceeded:  
West North East South  
1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass ?  
What action do you take?
- Q.3 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠ Q K105 ♥ 976 ♦ Q98732  
The bidding has proceeded:  
West North East South  
1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass ?  
What action do you take?
- Q.4 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠ 72 ♥ 95 ♦ Q10954 ♠ AKQ3  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
4 ♠ Pass ?  
What do you bid now?
- Q.5 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠ 63 ♥ 8762 ♦ A552 ♠ 764  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass South 1 ♠  
Dble Pass ?  
What action do you take?
- Q.6 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠ A5 ♥ Q76 ♦ KQ10532 ♠ K6  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass Pass 1 ♠  
?  
What action do you take?